



GROUNDWORK LONDON

LANDSCAPE DESIGN PORTFOLIO



CHANGING PLACES, CHANGING LIVES

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

Our award winning Landscape Design Service has been creating better places in London for over 20 years. Founded on the principal of engaging communities in co-creation, our multidisciplinary team offers a comprehensive service that can be tailored to your needs.

SHARING OUR PASSION

We know that communities in London are passionate about the parks and open spaces in their neighbourhoods; and that their local knowledge and enthusiasm are crucial to designing spaces that can truly revitalise places and bring people together.

We believe this grass roots approach is pivotal to creating more cohesive, integrated communities that feel a genuine sense of ownership of – and pride in – their surrounding environment. We create multifunctional places that promote health and wellbeing, enhance biodiversity, tackle environmental challenges, support local economies and re-connect people of all ages with the city's valuable open spaces.

SHARING OUR EXPERTISE

Our experienced team of Landscape Architects are skilled in translating a wide range of stakeholders' ideas and requirements into cost-effective, practical and highly creative design

solutions. In 2016, we were awarded two Highly Commended Landscape Institute Awards, and our Landscape Architects were invited to speak at the inaugural Urban Green Infrastructure Conference in Vienna in 2015 to present our Climate Proofing Housing Landscapes Programme as an exemplar in retrofitting urban green infrastructure.

TRAINING YOUNG PEOPLE

Our horticulture and grounds maintenance trainees, known as Green Teams, often work alongside our contractors on site. This experience enables them to get skilled-up, gain new qualifications and progress into permanent work. Our Green Teams have undergone training, enabling them to create and maintain light, affordable greenspace SUDS solutions.

ADDING VALUE

As a charity we're often able to secure additional funding for our landscape projects, from sources including charitable trusts, landfill tax operators and our corporate partners. We also offer fundraising support to community stakeholders, supporting them to apply for a host of community grants in order to maximise the capital budget available for our schemes. We have an impressive track-record, having secured 24% match funding for our landscape projects in 2016.

INNOVATING

We are proud recipients of the Landscape Institute's College of Fellows' Award for climate change adaptation, which we accepted at the Landscape Institute Awards 2016 in recognition of our innovative programme of climate proofing social housing landscapes in Hammersmith & Fulham.



OUR SPECIALISMS

We offer design, consultation and masterplanning services, with expertise across a broad cross-section of landscape design, regeneration and environmental disciplines.

The Public Realm

Water Sensitive Urban Design

Residential Landscapes

Parks & Open Spaces

Play & Active Spaces

Urban Biodiversity



THE PUBLIC REALM

ROOF EAST

STRATFORD

LOCATION: Stratford, East London
CLIENT: Urban Space Management
CAPITAL COST: circa £20,000
COMMISSION: Concept to Completion
COMPLETION DATE: July 2014

Design

Roof East is a pioneering high-rise urban park, located on top of a five storey car park in the heart of Stratford overlooking Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. It incorporates a bar and kitchen with seating and tables, an open air cinema zone, an aquaponics greenhouse and games that are integrated into the roof's design, including giant skittles. Groundwork was commissioned to design a rooftop park that brought together these disparate components into one coherent space. The design and implementation of the rooftop presented multiple challenges, including strong winds, dry conditions and delivery limitations due to the vehicle height and weight restrictions of the car park building.

Innovation

A central design theme of this unconventional bespoke rooftop park is the contrast of the stark concrete surface of the roof with colourful, soft luscious planting, creating a harmonious, visually interesting space. Much of the seating, raised planters and green walls were created using reclaimed wooden pallets and timber decking salvaged from the nearby Olympic Village.



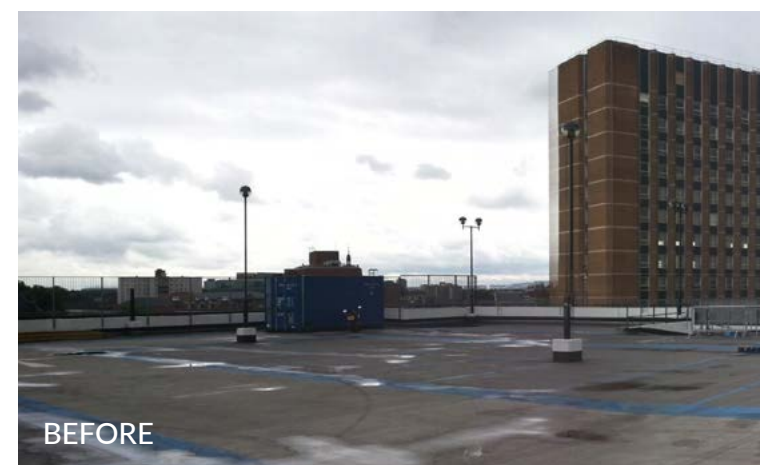
The defining features, a nod to the park's former use, are three vintage sports cars which are planted with trees and a variety of sensory planting. A proportion of the planting was also donated by RHS Chelsea Flower Show exhibitors, through Groundwork's Chelsea REUSE scheme, and was planted by Groundwork's Green Team of horticulture trainees and volunteers from Interserve. The planting scheme includes hardy lavender, rosemary and medlar, silver birch and field maple trees.

A complementary lighting scheme helps bring the park to life after dark, extending the use of the space into the evenings so that visitors can enjoy the space throughout the year.

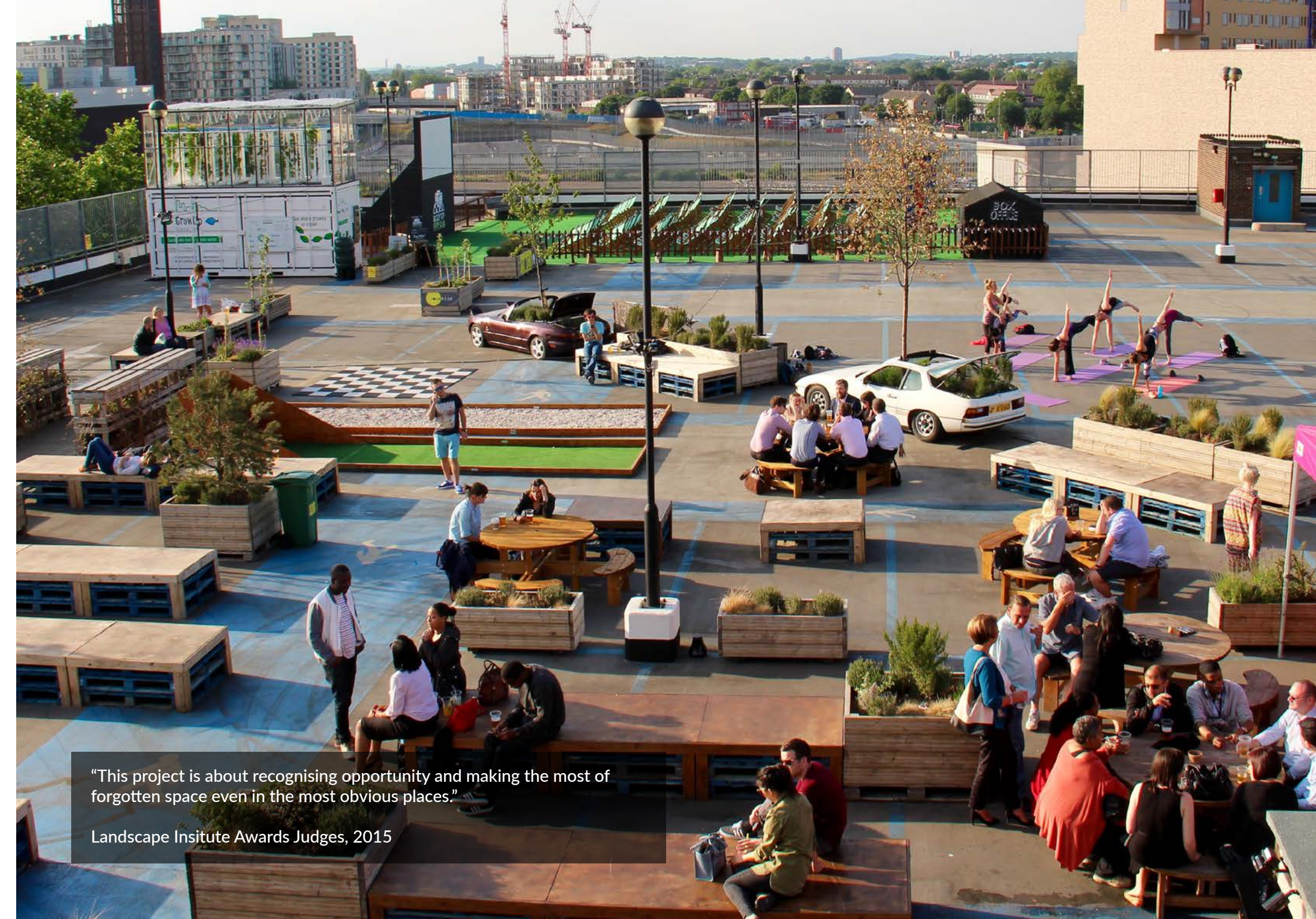
Impact

Roof East is a much loved public open space; a high rise oasis above the bustling streets and shops below. With spectacular views across London and a host of events and activities taking place over the warmer months, this has become a truly unique destination for locals and visitors alike. Roof East has been supported by Urban Space Management Ltd, GLA Pocket Park Fund, The Stratford Renaissance Partnership, Groundwork London and London Borough of Newham.

www.roofeast.com



BEFORE



"This project is about recognising opportunity and making the most of forgotten space even in the most obvious places."

Landscape Institute Awards Judges, 2015

ALL SAINTS SQUARE

NORTH KENSINGTON

LOCATION: North Kensington

CLIENT: Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea

CAPITAL COST: £98,489

COMMISSION: Concept to Completion

COMPLETION DATE: August 2012

Design

All Saints Square had become a tired, run down open space. The poor design and state of disrepair meant that the shaded seating was rarely used and the space had become an awkward through-route prone to anti-social behaviour and litter.

Our initial consultation revealed that the design needed to incorporate something playful for children; and take a zoned approach with a public area at the front offering seating for passers-by and a more private zone at the far end adjacent to the church. In response to this our approach was to:

- Integrate the square into its surroundings by reinforcing existing aesthetic connections and creating new ones, whilst also respecting existing buildings and pedestrian routes.
- Establish a transition from a public frontage to a more private courtyard space by creating zones for different uses.
- Create a space for residents living in the adjoining properties, with a focus on young families.

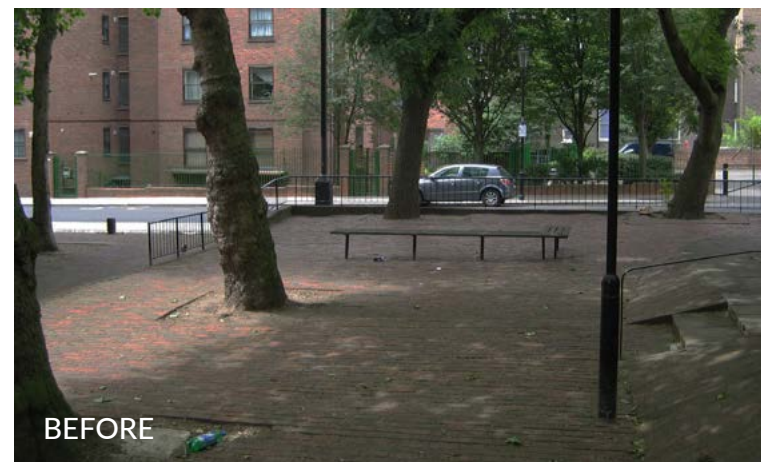
Innovation

The materials were selected for their varied and complementary qualities, with Yorkstone paving complementing the stone built church. New areas of planting, comprising low maintenance grasses and perennials, improve biodiversity while helping to alleviate previous drainage problems by absorbing rain water running off the hard surfaces.

The pavement entrance onto the square has been softened with the removal of railings and the installation of Robina wood cube seating, drawing passers-by into the space. Newly defined through-routes with open sight lines invite movement through the square and create a more fluid, welcoming space with a safer feel. A stone sculpture and timber semi-circle create interest and encourage informal play.

Impact

The re-design of this public space has generated both environmental and social benefits. The extensive consultation process with local residents, the church and the nearby nursery has helped to foster a greater sense of local ownership over the space. This has led to more opportunities for people to meet and socialise, with regular community events now held in the square.



“Groundwork professionally delivered this high quality open space improvement which had a number of complex site constraints to overcome. Groundwork led on the project management and all stages, including the community consultation, design development, fundraising, procurement and on-site project management, which resulted in a fantastic new community square being created. The project was delivered on time, within budget and achieved all of our outcomes, including high levels of community satisfaction”.

Terry Oliver, Head of Greener Living
The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN

CLIMATE PROOFING HOUSING LANDSCAPES



LOCATIONS: Queen Caroline Estate,
Cheeseman's Terrace & Cyril Thatcher, Richard
Knight & Eric Macdonald Houses.

CLIENT: Hammersmith & Fulham Council

CAPITAL COST: £460,000

COMMISSION: Concept to Completion

COMPLETION DATE: September 2016

Design

We retrofitted three social housing estates in Hammersmith & Fulham with affordable, green infrastructure climate adaptation measures, including green roofs, green walls and ground-level Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS). The three estates were chosen to demonstrate how green infrastructure adaptation can be implemented in a range of urban housing settings. Queen Caroline Estate, by Hammersmith Bridge, comprises a number of low-rise buildings, separated by large unused areas of grass and paving. This enabled us to install large scale ground-level features to manage water run-off from the adjacent roofs and paved areas, which also brought these previously uninspiring spaces back into active use. In contrast, the residential buildings at Cheesemans Terrace are set close together and the open space is dominated by hard landscape, predominantly roads and car parks. Consequently the designs for this estate include more measures which incorporate the buildings.

Innovation

The scheme uses SuDS interventions rarely before seen in the UK, including stormwater, tree pits, schotterrassen, an Austrian 'gravel lawn' and vertical rain gardens. Construction was undertaken in part by horticulture trainees – our Green Teams, bringing wider social benefits which are evaluated using social return on investment (SROI) methodology. In 2016 Groundwork London was awarded the Landscape Institute College of Fellows' Award for climate change adaptation for this innovative project.

Impact

The environmental performance of the SuDS are being monitored by the University of East London. The schemes have also received an enthusiastic response from residents, who appreciate both the increased flood resilience and access to the redesigned open spaces, which include informal play features, food growing plots, new planting and walkways. Since completion, surface run-off from 3,000m² of impermeable surface has been diverted away from the sewer system into green infrastructure, and a further 1,200m² is planned across the three estates.

www.urbanclimateproofing.london



"The standard of work is excellent and the materials are of really high quality. It looks beautiful and has really brightened up the estate. Walking along it, I felt as if I was walking through a new private development, rather than a social housing estate."

Phillip Lee
Housing Services, Hammersmith & Fulham, Housing & Regeneration

FLORA GARDENS

Hammersmith

CLIENT: London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and Natural England
CAPITAL COST: £50K
LOCATION: Hammersmith
COMMISSION: Concept to Completion
COMPLETION DATE: May 2013

Design

The public spaces on the Flora Gardens Estate in Hammersmith were being plagued by dog fouling and mopeds were being driven across some of the green spaces. The local authority and Flora Gardens Residents Association approached us to find a design solution to these problems. The scheme soon evolved into something much more ambitious than residents had initially envisaged.

We proposed an integrated scheme of hard and soft landscaping, creating low level wooden fencing to prevent vehicles from being driven over the green spaces. We worked with The Grass Roof Company to install sustainable draining solutions, including habitat rich green roofs on the Pram shed roofs, improving biodiversity and creating natural habitats.

The colourful low maintenance planting introduced in the open spaces and on the green roofs brighten up and soften residents' views of the estate from their windows above.

Innovation

Unused grass verges were transformed into planted gardens, introducing form and a variety of low maintenance flora. Bold planting patterns broke up the space, discouraging dog owners from allowing fouling. Additional green infrastructure opportunities were identified using our Geographical Information Systems (GIS) analysis of the site. Groundwork's Green Team trainees installed rain gardens, green walls, trees and wildflower areas, gaining valuable experience in developing new habitat areas and learning about rainwater management and sustainable drainage systems.

Impact

The Chair of the Residents' Association was overjoyed at the resulting scheme, commenting that the positive feedback from fellow residents made her feel that together they had genuinely improved the estate.

Interpretation signs were installed to help residents to understand the scheme more fully, particularly the function of the green roofs which are an integral part of the water management system. Pathway alterations have also reinstated safe, level access to homes while preventing mopeds from being ridden over pedestrian footpaths.



RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPES

FULHAM COURT MASTERPLAN

FULHAM

CLIENT: London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
CAPITAL COST: £1.7 million
LOCATION: Fulham, SW6
COMMISSION: Concept to Completion
COMPLETION DATE: October 2016

Design
Fulham Court and Barclay Close are neighbouring housing estates in Fulham. The two estates – home to over 450 households – were blighted by anti-social behaviour and crime, with fly tipping often taking place in the communal open spaces. A design solution was required to improve the open spaces, bringing them back into positive use and reducing the opportunities for anti-social behaviour and crime, while also integrating the two estates to create the visual feel of one fluid neighbourhood.

A new masterplan was created for the open spaces on both estates, which proposed: renewed lighting; improvements to three play areas and a ball court; the creation of a new outdoor gym; and improved parking facilities, roads and paving to address both parking problems and to improve road safety. The scheme also included new bin stores, fencing, cycle parking, soft landscaping, estate entrances and the removal of some legacy street furniture including bollards.

Innovation
The Home Zone design approach was utilised, focusing on creating pedestrian friendly road layouts to encourage responsible driving and safer streets, benefiting children and more vulnerable residents. This has resulted in a more intuitive streetscape to navigate with improved pedestrian connectivity and better access to play zones. It was very important to us and the local authority that the improvements reflected the residents’ priorities and that the design was shaped by how residents use and move around the estates. Our landscape architects and community engagement specialists worked closely with residents throughout the design and build phases to implement a scheme that enhances the physical environment and the quality of life for all residents.

Impact
The finished scheme comprises 16,400m of physical improvements which have significantly strengthened pedestrian connections between the two estates and redefined the entrances. The ball court, outdoor gym and play spaces have proved hugely popular with young people from the neighbourhood. Since completion, the open spaces have been used to host community events and the council have also reported that the new bin stores are easier to manage and clean and that fly tipping has been reduced.



Phase 2 Masterplan



“The environmental improvement scheme for the Fulham Court and Barclay Close estates has transformed the look of the estate combined with the replacement of the estate column lighting and replacing and installing CCTV. The scheme, which has been delivered in partnership with Groundwork, has significantly improved the look of the estate, something which has been supported by all residents and the TRA. The consultation, planning and contract administration Groundwork undertook to deliver this close to £2m improvement scheme has been an object lesson in why housing providers choose to work with Groundwork”.

Ernest Gray, Senior Project Manager, HEIP Schemes and Special Projects,
Housing & Property Services, Hammersmith & Fulham.

MILLSHOTT CLOSE

HAMMERSMITH



PROJECT NAME: Millshott Close
LOCATION: Hammersmith
CLIENT: London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
CAPITAL COST: circa £26k
COMMISSION: Concept to Completion
COMPLETION DATE: May 2014

Design

Millshott Close rain garden is located on the Thames riverside path between Hammersmith and Putney Bridge, opposite the London Wetland Centre. Local residents wanted the grassy area next to the riverside path fenced off to deter dog fouling, but after working alongside our landscape architects their plans evolved into a scheme to transform the space into an attractive new pocket park incorporating sustainable drainage, that both residents and passers-by could enjoy.

Innovation

The design incorporates a natural hardwood fish sculpture, granite boulders and meandering flowing planting inspired by the river. Central to the design is a turtle head and claws protruding from a grass mound which facilitates informal play and brings smiles to the faces of those who pass by on the Thames path. The space is enclosed by a bespoke timber fence made from sleepers. The permeable nature of the timber

fencing keeps dogs out while allowing clear views into the space from the adjacent riverside path. Rather than acting as a visual barrier, the bespoke fence softens the boundary between the park and the Thames Path and adds to the natural beauty of the landscape.

Impact

The result is a truly unique natural riverside pocket park that enhances the space for both Millshott Close residents and Thames Path walkers. The playful design has captured the imagination of those who live and work in the neighbourhood who have made the new pocket park into a local talking point. Joggers and walkers are often seen stopping to admire and photograph the turtle sculpture which is a regular feature on social media.



BEFORE



"We couldn't have asked for any more, there's nowhere else like it... people constantly stop to take photos of 'Terry the turtle'".
Millshot Close Resident, Keith Harris

"Millshot Close is a project that helps redefine what we mean by an amenity green space".
Landscape Insitute Awards Judges: 2015

PARKS & OPEN SPACES

MOBILE GARDEN CITY

QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK



CLIENT: London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC)
CAPITAL COST: £160K
LOCATION: Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Newham
COMMISSION: Concept to Completion
COMPLETION DATE: July 2015

Design

Chobham Manor is a contaminated site in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park that is destined for future housing development. In 2014, Groundwork was commissioned to create a temporary community garden on the site while it awaits remediation and redevelopment.

Developers are scheduled to move onto the Chobham Manor site in 2017, when the garden will be relocated to another pre-development site within the Park. Our vision for the site was of a communal growing space that brings people together from the surrounding newly built neighbourhoods and helps establish and strengthen these fledgling communities.

Innovation

We worked in partnership with Public Works and Somewhere to develop the concept, based on Ebenezer Howard’s Garden City, with a radial pattern and garden zones reimagined. This playfulness was extended through to a graphic

visual identity for the space. All the elements of the garden space have been designed to be easily transportable to new locations, and to be reconstructed without breaching contaminated ground. Many of the materials were reused from elsewhere, including a stage and container from the London 2012 Olympics and pallets and scaffold boards which were made into planters.

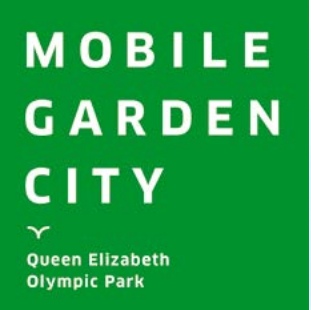
Over 80 modular planters were constructed by our Green Team of horticultural trainees and by corporate volunteers. The planting was completed by residents and school children with ongoing gardening sessions delivered by Groundwork’s community gardeners. An area within the garden has also been designed to host a rolling programme of pop-up events and initiatives, which have included a tool library, an anaerobic digester, cookery classes and a poetry shed.

Impact

Since opening, the garden has grown into a much-loved and valued community space, that brings together a diverse local population including long standing residents in Leyton and new arrivals to the East Village. In 2016 Mobile Garden City was highly commended at the Landscape Institute Awards, as an exemplar of design in a temporary landscape.



BEFORE



GANDHI CHAPLIN POCKET PARK

CANNING TOWN

CLIENT: London Borough of Newham
CAPITAL COST: £80,400 + £51,000 in donated materials & labour
LOCATION: Canning Town
COMMISSION: Concept to Completion
COMPLETION DATE: July 2015

Design

The Gandhi Chaplin Memorial Garden was created by Groundwork London and Newham Council, in collaboration with local residents and school children. The garden commemorates Charlie Chaplin's historic meeting with Mahatma Gandhi at a house on near-by Beckton Road, on 22 September 1931, when hundreds gathered to catch a glimpse of the famous visitors.

The site, adjacent to the busy A13, had been derelict for decades after a number of terraced houses had been demolished. It sadly had become a waste ground that suffered from fly-tipping and neglect. Groundwork was commissioned to design and facilitate the implementation of a peaceful commemorative garden, to become a treasured green space in this densely built up area of Canning Town.

Innovation

In the construction of the garden, we were able to acquire and use a large amount of donated materials from Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park post-games development, the RHS Chelsea

Flower show reuse scheme, which Groundwork managed from 2012 - 2014. Materials and labour were also generously donated by Laing O'Rourke, Warwick Landscaping and Newham Council.

The mosaics, that pay tribute to both Mahatma Gandhi and Charlie Chaplin, were created by local artist Alan Read with help from local school children.

York Stone blocks, that were donated through our re-use scheme, have been placed in the same position as the back door steps of the demolished terraced housing. At the garden's opening in 2015, the timber raised beds were planted by residents and a time capsule was buried which included art work and letters from local school children.

Impact

Since its creation the garden has already brought local residents together as part of the The Big Dig, a national campaign to get communities gardening. It has truly been a transformational project which has united the local community in celebrating the rich culture and history of Canning Town. The planting and a number of new trees in the garden should in time contribute to improving air quality along the A13, close to one of the city's air polluted hotspots.



BEFORE



Chaplin's granddaughter, Oona Chaplin, was at the opening of the garden, and said she was 'really proud'. "I love the fact that it's right next to a highway, just reminding people in their cars that actually there is peace to be found".

The Mayor of Newham, Sir Robin Wales, said: "The story of Gandhi and Chaplin meeting is an extraordinary and inspirational one. It's typical of life in Newham where people from many different backgrounds come together. The aim of this garden is to provide residents with the opportunity to meet, share ideas and build friendships".

PLAY & ACTIVE SPACES

ST JOHN'S PLAYGROUND

HOXTON

CLIENT: St John's Church Hoxton
CAPITAL COST: £132,000
LOCATION: Hackney
COMMISSION: Concept to Completion, including fundraising
COMPLETION DATE: December 2015

Design

Before we were invited to work with St John's Hoxton on this project, the play area in front of the church had been locked and was not in use due to safety concerns. Much of the surface material had broken and the pieces of old plastic play equipment were damaged and unsafe. The area was enclosed by tall 1.6m metal railings and surrounded by mature London plane trees.

Our aim was to redesign the area to create a cohesive, fluid, multi-use play space for the whole community to enjoy, incorporating natural play equipment, seating and an area for seasonal tea stall.

Innovation

The challenge was to create an exciting new space that respected the existing heritage of the site, while meeting the varied needs of a modern community church. We responded to this challenge by employing the sensitive use of classic materials including York Stone, London brick and natural timber. We worked closely

with the Church, heritage and arboricultural experts and bespoke play equipment designers to produce this scheme.

Groundwork's fundraising strategy for this project was very successful, securing £110,000 towards the capital costs. We also ran a successful crowd-funding campaign with the church and the local community, raising over £15,000 online.

Impact

The new playground has proved a huge hit with both children and adults. It is open to the whole community, 365 days a year and attracts many people from the street or who use the church grounds as a through-route. It has become a welcoming social space, where the church community and wider community gather and enjoy.

It has re-energised the space in front of the Church and brought the community together, both in the development and fundraising for the scheme and in the enjoyment of the completed playground. Revd Hunter, Vicar at St Johns said, "We're tremendously pleased to have worked with Groundwork over the last few years, and especially for their fundraising support, which has made this project possible."



"After four years in the planning and the development it's wonderful to finally be opening this new community playground for Hoxton. The congregation at St John's Church are so pleased to be able to offer this fantastic new playground for everyone in the local neighbourhood to enjoy. Hoxton has some of the lowest proportions of domestic green space anywhere in London, so our shared open spaces are especially important."

Revd Graham Hunter

WILLIAM CHURCH ESTATE

SHEPHERD'S BUSH

CLIENT: London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
LOCATION: Shepherd's Bush
CAPITAL COST: £46k
COMMISSION: Concept to Completion
COMPLETION DATE: Spring 2015

Design

We were commissioned to design and deliver a new play space on William Church Estate. Previously, the site was a grassed courtyard planted with a number of birch trees, and overlooked by the surrounding low-rise buildings. Few children would play there as it was used as a dog toilet, a rubbish tip by some of the neighbouring properties and as a destination for local street drinkers.

Our concept was to create an open, free running and natural playscape that encouraged movement through the whole of the space. The aim was to significantly increase the numbers of children and parents using the courtyard, and in doing so reduce anti-social behaviour.

Innovation

The design created contrast between a green natural landscape of grass mounds with brightly coloured areas of Wet Pour surfacing. Timber balancing and running play features were installed to encourage physical activity. We

were able to extend the boundary of the space to incorporate additional trees and further open up the landscape, which surpassed the original brief and residents' expectations. The Wet Pour surface colours and design were chosen to reflect a geological theme, with red and yellow concentric circles representing a view into the earth's core.

The design is innovative in its approach to play, creating a rolling landscape to encourage fluid movement, playful exploration and free running. The scheme was finalised following consultation with residents, taking into account how different users and residents will experience and use the space. The needs of different users were considered including those residents whose homes overlook the site, parents sitting watching children play and pedestrians using the space as a through route.

Impact

Meaningful consultation and innovative design has successfully transformed this area of the estate from being a dangerous and dirty patch of land into a fun, well-used, attractive open space which the local community can feel proud of. The residents report that dog fouling and littering has reduced considerably and that rough sleepers and street drinkers are no longer using the space.



"It's fantastic, so colourful and inviting, catering to all elements of play including imaginative, and children of all ages as well as families. It's not just a play area but a space that residents enjoy socially during the long summer evenings".

Bini Shah, Project Manager
Housing Property Services

URBAN BIODIVERSITY

PADDINGTON REC

MAIDA VALE

CLIENT: Westminster City Council
LOCATION: Paddington Recreation Ground, Westminster
CAPITAL COST: £185,000
COMMISSION: Concept to Completion
COMPLETION DATE: September 2010

Design

Groundwork London were commissioned by Westminster City Council (WCC) to create a new nature area in Paddington Recreation Ground. The need for greater access to wildlife in the local area had been highlighted in the London Plan, WCC's Unitary Development Plan, Open Space Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan.

Phase one of the project saw the development of a new woodland walk, wildflower meadow, and stag beetle loggery. The second phase of the project created a new wildlife pond, boardwalk and pond dipping platform using timber from sustainably managed UK woodlands.

Innovation

The area of open water provides a new wetland wildlife habitat, a first for the park and an important natural amenity for the local area. Timber pathways surrounding the pond allow visitors to fully explore and appreciate the wetlands. A dipping platform enables safe and easy access to the pond for school children

and community groups to take part in learning activities in this unique outdoor classroom.

The pond is fed with rain water channelled from the roof of the adjacent building and filtered through reed beds. If the water level in the pond becomes too low, sensors trigger the release of stored water from a bore hole drilled into in a chalk aquifer, 100 metres below the surface water.

Impact

The pond is a valuable addition to Westminster's diverse open space assets, and an important new resource for outdoor learning, enabling local residents, schools and community groups to connect with the natural environment and wildlife.

The site also has an outdoor classroom with a green roof, integrated with a raised reed bed; another valuable community resource and learning site. Westminster City Council won first place in the National Environmental Project of the Year 2009 awards by the Institute of Groundsmanship for Paddington Recreation Ground Nature Reserve.



“In the capital it's easy to forget about the natural world that surrounds us, and this new wildlife area will provide an opportunity to get back to nature as well as being a valuable and unique and unique opportunity for our school children”.

Councillor Lee Rowley
Westminster City Council

MORDEN HALL BOARDWALK

MORDEN HALL PARK

CLIENT: National Trust
LOCATION: Morden Hall Park, London
Borough of Merton
CAPITAL COST: £200k
COMMISSION: Concept to Completion
COMPLETION DATE: Autumn 2016

Design
Morden Hall Park is 42 hectares of open space in the London Borough of Merton, home to historic manor houses, parkland and a National Trust managed wetlands. Groundwork London was commissioned by the National Trust to develop and oversee the implementation of a new public boardwalk within the wetlands, in the northern section of the park.

The boardwalk was designed to complement the natural environment and to improve public access to the wetlands for recreation and education. The route was chosen to allow visitors to experience the variety of natural habitats within the wetland, from areas of open water through reed beds into scrub and woodland. Walkers following the boardwalk explore semi-enclosed areas of high vegetation and emerge into open spaces with far reaching views.

The wetland was dominated by reeds, rushes and sedges. To increase the diversity of natural habitats, we created new scrapes (strips of

shallow water) which help open up views across the wetlands and create a more heterogenous habitat, with varied vegetation and water levels.

Innovation
Groundwork London has worked closely with the National Trust, the Environment Agency and the London Borough of Merton to ensure that the boardwalk design and associated works respect the park’s heritage, protect existing wildlife and contribute to managing flood risk in the local area.

The boardwalk was constructed using driven hardwood piles, which are visually sympathetic to the natural and historic environment. The building of a new ‘dipping platform’ has given school children the opportunity to learn more about the wetland habitat and wildlife.

Impact
These improvements are part of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) supported Living Wandle project, delivering landscape improvements along the whole length of the River Wandle. This programme of works, including the new boardwalk, aims to contribute to the creation of ‘a healthy and multi-functional landscape with opportunities to involve local people in the heritage, culture, landscape and biodiversity of the Wandle Valley’.





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