



Growing Kids Community Allotment Wildlife Garden Project summary

Growing Kids Community Allotment was started in April 2008 with the aims of helping families to live a healthier lifestyle, introduce children to growing their own produce, reducing obesity and increasing environmental awareness.

We have rented a large allotment from the local council and have sub divided it into manageable sized plots which families can have for a small fee per season. We provide all the equipment and seeds needed to grow their own produce. In our first season, we attracted 47 children representing more than 20 families.

Recognising the importance of encouraging beneficial wildlife onto the plot, we kept space available to develop the wildlife garden. This area is to have a pond, wild flower meadow, wildlife habitats as well as a communal area for children to undertake fun learning activities which will further underpin the practical work that is carried on throughout the growing season. We are also encouraging a community spirit by having a communal area where parents may rest and reflect as well as making new friends. This will benefit mental and emotional well-being as well as physical improvement in health.

During 2008/09 we have been fortunate to obtain nearly £7000 in grants.

This has/will:

- Purchase a metal shed, necessary tools etc to start the project
- Purchase seeds
- Erect a boundary fence and purchase plants to make a growing fence on the internal boundary of the wildlife garden
- Purchase different bug and bird boxes to encourage a plethora of beneficial wildlife next season
- Hire a contractor to dig and make a pond
- Purchase a pond pump and solar power unit
- Sow a small wildflower meadow on the site
- Employ someone to facilitate children's learning on a sessional basis for 2 hours per week for 6 months
- Pay a proportion of the project managers salary

The funding from the **Naturesave Trust** will contribute toward the fencing and labour costs, digging the pond, levelling the site and a number of the bird and bug boxes.

Our future plans include raised beds to facilitate wheelchair access, obtaining funding to employ a site manager/ground maintenance person part time and extended opening times during the growing season in order that more families will be able to access this project. It is also our intention over time to duplicate this project in other areas.

For photos of the project please go to www.healthinnovate.co.uk