

COMMUNITY GARDENS IN MANCHESTER

Directory of Community Gardens

Following are a selection of Community Gardens based around Manchester.

The gardens included are all specifically involved in growing food. Community allotments are not covered here, since they are included in the Allotments Factsheet which is part of this Resource Pack. There are probably many more community garden food projects in the area. If your project is not included here, please email wellbeing@macc.org.uk, and we will make sure that you are included in future editions.



Abraham Moss High School

This is a gardening project based around planting of the school grounds. The project features a large onsite greenhouse for pupils to raise bedding plants and support tender plants. For more information contact Mr. Kineston.

Cheetham Community Primary School

This is a community gardening project with a well established living willow structure as a centrepiece for the orchard. It also includes flower and vegetable beds, and in 2005 two dedicated beds were established for cereal crops.

Friends of Birchfield Park

FoBP have established a small forest garden in the corner of Birchfield Park. A forest garden is a form permaculture gardening that replicates a natural forest, and produces a wide diversity of fresh fruit and vegetables, with a minimal amount of work. For more information email Jane Morris - j.morris1@manchester.gov.uk.

Glebelands Organic Market Garden

Glebelands is situated in Sale, on the banks of the Mersey, and is a working market garden rather a community garden. It is the only *organic*, peri-urban market garden in the country (according to the Soil Association). The project is

run as a small workers co-op, and maintains strong ethical values, being committed to environmental protection, and community involvement. The Co-op produce a wide variety of organic vegetables and specialise in salad leaves, most of which are sold directly to nearby Unicorn Grocery in Chorlton. The project is supported by WWOOFers (Worldwide Workers On Organic Farms) who come to volunteer from all over the world. For more information contact Lesley Bryson: phone - 0161 718 5328 / email - glebelands@ntlworld.com / 24 Athol Rd, Whalley Range, Manchester, M16 8QN.

Hulme Community Garden Centre

This is a charity based, not for profit organisation based south of the City Centre. They grow their own fruit and vegetables, and are totally organic. They promote organics in all they do, and educate people on the subject with volunteer days, and work with students from Loreto College and with Venture Arts who use the Centre as a work shop area. The project has a community garden plus a garden centre, from where they sell plants to raise funds for community projects. For more info, including contact details and a map, visit www.hulmegardencentre.org.uk. Contact Katherine Moores, Horticultural Volunteer Coordinator: info@hulmegardencentre.org.uk / phone 227 8198.

Kenworthy Wood Communal Orchard

This project is situated in the middle of Kenworthy Community Woodland, on the banks of the River Mersey, near Cholton Water Park. The orchard is open access and contains a host of different varieties of fruit trees, growing in a enchanting, secluded meadow. Kenworthy Wood was funded by the Co-operative Bank and is managed by the Manchester Countryside Ranger service.

Leaf Street Community Garden

Sited on an old street, running between flats on the Bentley House housing estate in Manchester. This project was initiated by residents during a permaculture design course in 1999, wherein participants created a design for the garden, and began digging and raising beds. The space was transformed from an empty acre of grass, to a biodiverse and productive living landscape. Residents come together regularly to grow fresh fruit, herbs and vegetable. For more information email Will Lenton - wlenton@fish.co.uk.

Manchester Learning Disability Partnership

Based in Wythenshawe Park, and including gardening and horticulture work days. For more information phone Emma Clegge (MLDP) - 0161 223 9901, or Crossacres Staff - 0161 499 3375.

North Manchester General Hospital

Attached to the mental health unit at the hospital is a horticultural project where plants are grown for the hospital grounds and sale to patients and the general public. There are two large polytunnels for raising the plants.

PLOT – Planting and Living in Old Trafford

This is a community allotment and garden based at Seymour Grove allotments in Old Trafford. The project is a partnership of organisations which help local people share a harvest of locally grown, organic fruit and vegetables. Partners include Groundwork, Trafford Council, BLUESCI (Social and Cultural Inclusion), and Action For Sustainable Living. For more information phone Liz or Tina on 0161 873 7182.

Princes Park Irlam Garden Centre

Services to people with a disability helping them to gain experience and understanding of workplace discipline. For more information phone Tom Broad (manager) - 0161 775 5889

Reddish Vale Country Garden Own Grown Grub Garden

Stockport's Healthy Living Centre hosts this community garden project, along with a healthy eating initiative. Volunteers take part in gardening activities with training from two members of staff. Its focus is to get people involved in tidying up a neglected wildlife garden in Reddish Vale Country Park, and eventually to grow fruit and vegetables on it. The main site was created at Reddish Vale Country Park in 2001, but the staff were also working with schools to develop gardens there. The main site recently received funding for two cabins, including solar panels and a green roof. For more information: visit – www.hlsrb.org.uk / email - info@hlsrb.org.uk / phone - 0161 474 8424.

Ridgeway St Community Garden

This project is operated by the Manchester Environmental Resource Centre initiative (MERCi), and is a community garden that has recently been newly landscaped. It features a wildlife area and vegetable plot.

For more information contact Claire McMullen: 0161 273 1736

Rutland Avenue Residents Association Community Garden

This a group of local residents in Withington who have formed a community garden on a piece of derelict waste ground behind their street. The ground was cleared, landscaped and planted by the City Council in 2004, under the CA:SH grant programme. They have gradually added to the planting and made a small allotment during the summer of 2005, and grew some vegetables. They have created three raised beds, because of the very poor soil quality, and have planted these with soft fruit bushes and other food crops. For more information email Gaby Porter: gaby@gabyporter.co.uk

Zion Health Centre

This community garden is situated at the rear of the Zion Health Centre in Hulme. The project offers a sheltered environment for people to come together and learn gardening skills. Fresh food and herbs are grown in the garden, amongst other things, and much of this is supplied to the HARP community café which is situated in the same building. For more information email Elizabeth Hammond - gardenproject@tiscali.co.uk.

HDRA – the organic organisation's schools club (Duchy Originals Garden Organic for Schools)

Teaching organic gardening to school children based around a number of core curriculum area's. Participating schools include:

- All Souls' RC Primary
- Cannon Burrows C.E.P
- Clarendon Cottage
- Dukesgate Primary
- Moss Park Infants
- Oswald Road Primary
- St Edward's C E Primary
- Summerville County Primary

For more information phone - 020 7630 8238

Support Groups

Manchester Organic Gardeners

This is an organic gardening club for enthusiasts in the Greater Manchester area. Members meet regularly and enjoy talks and presentations, and exchange tips and resources such as plants, seeds and recipes. For more information, contact Jane E Barkess: email - janeeblowerclowes@tiscali.co.uk / phone - 01706 2113778 / Lower Clowes, Rawtenstall, Rossendale.

Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens

FCFCG is the representative body for city farms, community gardens and similar community-led organisations in the UK. They provide information, advice and support for any group working in these areas. In addition they offer a number of useful publications, including:

- Community Garden Starter Pack
- City Farm Starter Pack

For more information go to www.farmgarden.org.uk (click on the 'publications' link) / phone - 0117 923 1800 / FCF CG, The Greenhouse, Hereford St, Bristol, BS3 4NA

Garden Organic (Henri Doublesday Research Association)

HDRA is a national charity for organic growing, for gardeners, farmers, and an organic lifestyle in general. They provide advice and information on:

- Organic gardening
- Farming, growing and research
- Going organic in schools
- Their own organic products
- Sustainable agriculture worldwide
- Heritage vegetables
- Organic food on a budget
- Organic services and links

Visit www.gardenorganic.org.uk / email - enquiry@hdra.org.uk / phone - 024 7630 3517 / Garden Organic, Ryton Organic Gardens, Coventry, CV8 3LG



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