

Hitherfield Primary

In 2014, Trees for Cities worked with Hitherfield Primary School in Lambeth, to create an Edible Playground.

Hitherfield has recently expanded to three-form entry and has grown to accommodate 700 children. On completion of the new build, the school quickly focused on the use of its grounds to ensure they provide the children with the space and resources to play and learn. The school consulted with the school community, which highlighted strong interest in food-growing, which fitted closely with the school's ambition to introduce the growing and cooking of food into the curriculum for every age group.

Edible Playgrounds provide the opportunity for children living in urban areas to grow, nurture, harvest, cook and eat fruit and vegetables, and to integrate the outdoor learning into the school curriculum, with benefits to children's health and education.

To create an Edible Playground we build raised beds, plant the school grounds with fruit and nut trees and other edible plants, install a greenhouse, irrigation, composting and other key elements. Crucially, for one year after creation, we continue to support the school to use and maintain the outdoor space as a food-growing and learning resource.

Trees for Cities and Hitherfield worked in partnership to design the Edible Playground and raise funds for its delivery.



With initial seed corn funding, we jointly delivered a 'ground breaking' day to begin landscaping and construction of the raised beds and engage stakeholders including the school eco-club. The day was well attended by businesses who were interested to support the project through volunteering and sponsorship. With further funding secured over the summer, Trees for Cities engaged volunteers and trainees to create the Edible Playground at Hitherfield.

From September 2014, the children, teachers and parents have helped to plant and nurture the edibles. Our Edible Playgrounds Coordinator will continue to work with the school for one year, building capacity to grow food and embed the Edible Playground into the school curriculum.

We are proud that as an outcome of the Edible Playground, Hitherfield has been awarded the status of being a flagship school in the Mayor of London's Flagship Food Borough programme. Its Edible Playground will now be used to inspire other schools in Lambeth and across London, and gives us a platform to roll out Edible Playgrounds into other cities.



For more information please take a look at our website www.treesforcities.org. Contact jenny@treesforcities.org (schools) or carys@treesforcities.org (businesses).