

Analysis of the survey to decide on what to grow at Dobree Park site, now called Longacre Community Garden

Name

It was a close run contest re the name for the site, but "Longacre Community Garden" came out on top in the end.

Wildlife

Overall the most popular ideas were to give a lot of habitat for wildlife, which we would agree is really important. This won't be limited to a small space, but the whole site will be designed with wildlife in mind. The varied planting and microclimates we can create, due to the contours and soil types onsite, will lead in time to much more wildlife than is currently using the site. There were also suggestions to install a pond for wildlife, which after preliminary enquiries to the environment agency, may be allowed in the dip furthest away from the inlet pipe.

The site is surrounded by a bank of native trees, that offer a windbreak to the field, and also an important wildlife corridor. These wild areas take up around 1/3 of the acre. These have already been added to, and the intention is to keep all the edges as wild as possible, with only minimal trimming by the TTW group.

There are also two, large, dense patches of brambles. We are going to keep these in place, and site the larger trees of chestnut and walnut in this area. It will many years until the canopy of these trees shades these bramble patches.

Efforts are already underway to create a wildflower meadow and wildflower bog area. An estimated 30 people are growing seeds into plants across Wellington, to add to this site as well as others in the town. It will take time to develop, but with the right maintenance routine, we hope there will be many varieties of wildflowers and all their associated pollinators onsite in the future.

We have already seen banks of celandine flowering that were previously hidden by brambles.

There are also lots of nettles onsite, which we will keep (at least in part) for their value as a food plant for peacock butterflies, and which shows the fertility of the site. We hope to create a balance, so that many different species can have space, and one plant doesn't have total dominance.

Facilities

Annual and perennial vegetables were popular, with disabled access beds being twice as popular as ground level ones. One comment was to provide lightning for disabled access, which we felt was a good idea, and one we'd not thought of. The disabled access beds will be situated nearest the gate, with the path to it as level as the field will allow.

A shelter was popular, although a shed not-so-much, with worries about theft and vandalism. A shelter will enable us to collect rainwater to water annual vegetables, so we will aim to build one of these first, and see how things develop re a shed. A greenhouse was very unpopular, so the idea will be discarded. The most popular feature of all was picnic benches, so efforts will be made to instate some as soon as possible. An open, flat area was popular, as well as a suggestion for a focal point for the garden. If a picnic site was designed in the plan to overlook the beautiful view, then this would create a lovely place for families and groups to meet.

Residents of the site have showed concern for a campfire area, as it is a quiet place at the moment at night. We added this to the survey as a suggestion from the Somerset Rural Youth Project, however the TTW have no insurance for fires, and also the railway may not allow them. We will leave this off the plan for now, as it may create problems. If the SRY or other groups want to take this idea up in the future, then they can lead on this. It was reasonably popular with 36.3% voting for it.

Another very unpopular idea was a sandpit, scoring around the same as the greenhouse, with many people concerned about cats using it as a litter tray. As an idea from the Youth Centre, TTW will leave it off the plan for now, and if other groups still want to do this idea, then it will be up to them.

Around 3/4 of people voted for a dog poo bin, with some comments being that dogs could be kept on a lead or away from food producing areas. Organisers have already asked for a council dog poo bin, but are unlikely to see one specially for this site. We will look into a hygienic compost-type bin with decomposable bags instead. Owners may wish to keep smaller dogs on leads, due to the fence bordering the railway having dig holes made by foxes or badgers. These will be impossible to kept blocked up by volunteers, plus we wouldn't want to discourage any wildlife, so if your dog may fit through, we suggest you should keep them on a lead for their own

safety. Disabled access beds may be high enough to keep off dogs, badgers and rabbits; if we do ground level vegetable beds we may need to fence this off. A fence could be hidden from sight by various vines or hedge plants. Details of ground level vegetable beds will develop in time with more discussions.

Trees

Cherry and apple came out top with around 3/4 of people voting for these. Pear, plum, damson, greengage and hazelnut came in close behind with over half of people voting for these. So expect to see quite a few of these planted, especially as they are all reasonably small trees and therefore take up less space and are easy to maintain.

The losers were Heartnut, Juneberry, Chinese hawthorn and Italian alder, all scoring under 15%, so we are unlikely to find room for these. This is a shame as Italian alder feeds the other trees with nitrogen, and heartnut are a sweeter, quicker cropping alternative to Walnut. 14 people did vote for a Juneberry tree, and there is a smaller, better fruiting bush in the same family that may be better instead, which is up for consideration.

Apricot, quince, pine and wild pear were also low scorers, with around 20%. Stone Pine and wild pear are both massive trees, the pine nuts being low yielding, and wild pear inedible to humans. Apricot and quince are much smaller trees with a useful crop, so it was thought that we may squeeze in one each of the smaller trees, but leave out the bigger ones as they would take up too much space. Wild pear can be used as a hedging plant and therefore pruned to not take up much space, so we can add this to any new or existing hedge.

Mulberry, chestnut, walnut, wild plum, and fig, scored a mid range between 26-36%, so we could add at least one each of these to the design.

Individuals suggestions of particular varieties of apple, such as bramley, a cider type and crabapple, will be included.

Bushes

Raspberries and blackberries scored the highest with around 3/4 of the votes. Blueberries were next with 61%. Redcurrants, blackcurrants, whitecurrant, gooseberries, elderberries and loganberries all scored highly too, with roughly 40-55% voting for these. The lowest scoring were the more unusual ones, perhaps because they weren't well known- aronia, worcesterberry, josterberry and Japanese wineberry. Bushes don't take up much space, so all will be included somewhere, but the ratio will echo their score. There were concerns that some are rampant and hard to control. Organisers know that none are as vigorous as wild blackberries, so one idea is to create a habitat similar to a bramble patch, but made up of the raspberries, cultivated blackberries, loganberries, worcesterberries and Japanese wineberry. The edges could be trimmed by mowing, but could intermingle to create an interesting foraging area, and a habitat for wildlife too.

One person mentioned that fruit will attract wasps. We can not deny this is true, however wasps can be attracted by many things. Wasps are a fact of life and you will be hard pressed to avoid them altogether. Generally if they are interested in a fruit or flower, they are less likely to bother you. We will however deal with any nests we find, especially if they are felt to be a danger to the public. If there is a nest away from where anyone will disturb it, we may feel it is better left; after all they are pollinators too and we want to avoid using unnecessary chemicals onsite.

Herbs

These were all voted for heavily. Other varieties suggested were lavender, fennel, parsley, borage, salad burnet, sorrel, lemon verbena and chives. We feel all these are a good idea, so could be planted somewhere too.

Some concern was made to raspberries, mint, Jerusalem artichokes etc spreading rampantly. The people designing the site do have experience of these in their gardens and will take precaution that they don't spread too much, however, as many people are looking for a semi wild type garden, some spreading wont be a problem, if incorporated into limited areas and kept in check with maintenance. Many wild flowers will also spread by seed, and this in time will add to the charm of the place.

Coppicing

Coppiced trees were included in the survey after suggestion, with hazelnut and willow scoring 30% and chestnut 20%. These will be given space in ratio with the other trees based on popularity.

Other edibles

The more common foods such as rhubarb, strawberries, perennial leaves, asparagus and grapes scored higher than the more unusual ones such as Jerusalem or globe artichokes, probably again that more people eat them on a regular basis. If areas for perennial and annual vegetables are provided in the plan, it is likely that those who will be gardening them, can decide on what they want to grow.

Results from both surveys combined;

Name

Green Way Community Garden	16+2=18
– Longacre Community Garden	31+1=32
– Rockwell Green Community Garden	27+1=28
– Don't mind...	19+3=22

Facilities

Ground-level vegetable beds	28 +2=30 =29.4%
– Raised veg beds for disabled access	57+4=61= 59.8%
– A shelter	55+5=60= 58.8%
– A shed for tools	19+2=21
– A greenhouse (or similar)	12+0=12
– Picnic bench	74+6=80= 78.4%
– An open flat area	38+3=41= 40.2%
– Footpath for dogwalkers	38+3=41
– A dog poo bin	68+6=74
– A sandpit for children	14+0=14
– A campfire/BBQ are	33+4=37

Any other comments/ideas:

Sandpit would need maintenance

I think a shed might unfortunately tempt burglars, better if people can take tools home.

As a resident of greenway road and my garden backing on to the space, i have 4 children and i certainly don't want a campfire/bbq area, its lovely and quiet out there at nighttime, i would like it to stay that way x

(Said they wanted to be contacted but didn't leave their email address)

A notice for would vandals to remind them of their parents involvement and the cost of any replacement for damage. (in simple English)

A foot path once other aspects are designed. **Disabled access and lighting by it.** Wild life and insect loving hedging ie Buddleia, dog rose, blackberry, rosemary, Jasmin.

Herb and pollinator patch - not necessarily large!

Lots of trees

Some water for wildlife.

Some plants/grasses/areas for wildlife

fruit trees, fruit bushes, access to some hazel and blackberry for foraging.

to leave some wild area's, nettle and bramble patches for wild life. Totally against sand pit as so many cats around it will just end up a massive litter tray, yuk!!

A dog free zone?

I think a sandpit, whilst lovely, will just get animals defecating in it!

Fruit trees/bushes/plants

A withy bed for weavers

Fruit

Footpath for any walker, not necessarily dogs. Dogs should be kept on a lead. If people will probably have fires there anyway, you may as well regulate it and have a designated place.

Wildflower area. Bird feeder, boxes and **water bath**. Bug hotels. Hedgehog box, benches for resting, mud kitchen.

Wildlife

Bird boxes	$87+7=94$
- Bat boxes	$72+6=78$
- Hedgehog habitat	$77+7=84$
- Insect hotels	$75+5=80$

– Wildflowers	84+7=91
– Long grass	59+6=95
– Native trees/hedges	83+7=90

Bird boxes 92%
 Bat boxes 76%
 Hedgehog habitat 82%
 Insect hotels 78%
 Wildflowers 89%
 Long grass 93%
 Native trees/hedges 88%

Comments

Doormice boxes

Pond, fragrant plants e.g. jasmine

Hold workshops to get the local kids to make the insect hotels, etc

Native plants to attract pollinators

Wild areas left for flora and fauna to just be.

Trees and hedge plants should be sourced from the UK and not imported.

dormouse boxes, owl box, some nettles and brambles to be left

And anything to encourage wildlife,

Pond/wet area for frogs, toads, newts, dragon flies etc

A dog free zone

Trees

Pear=5 total	48+5=53 =52%
– Damson/plum/greengage =6 total with bullace	55+4=59= 57.8%
– Cherry = 8 total	65+5=70 = 68.6%
– Apple= 8 total bigger tree than cherry	70+5=75 =73.5%
– Mulberry=1 total big tree	27+3=30 = 29.4%
– Apricot= 1 total small tree	19+0=19= 18.6%
– Quince= 1 total small tree	19+1=20= 19.6%

– Hazlenut = 5 total	$52+4=56= 54.9\%$
– Chestnut = 1 total, large tree	$33+3=36= 35.3\%$
– Walnut= 1 total large tree	$32+4=36= 35.3\%$
– Heartnut none (large tree)	$9+0=9=8.8\%$
– Pine (for pine nuts) none, large tree	$21+1=22=21.6\%$
– Wild pear none, large tree	$18+0=18= 17.6\%$
– Wild plum (bullace) included with plum/ Damson	$24+2=26= 25.5\%$
– Fig 2 total, pruned to very small area	$28+2=30= 29.4\%$
– Juneberry (Amelanchier) none, Bush instead	$12+2=14=13.7\%$
– Chinese hawthorn - none	$11+0=11= 10.8\%$
– Italian alder- none	$11+2=13= 12.7\%$

Comments

Smallish trees so produce is accessible & trees don't cause too much shade/space when mature
need to explain to local residents that it will be a while before there is much fruit

Old cider variety apple

Hawthorn, crab apple

grape vine on wall

Magnolia, an early provider of pollen and nectar for insects. Lilac tree not the smaller shrub form.
Holly for winter berries.

Japanese Wineberry

Bramley apple

Some of these eventually grow into huge trees and may overshadow an orchard

Bushes

Raspberries	$70+6=76 =74.5\%$
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– Blackberries (thornless)	$73+4=77=75.5\%$
– Redcurrants/blackcurrants/whitecurrants	$50+4=54$
– Gooseberries	$45+4=50$
– Loganberries	$38+3=41$
– Jostaberry	$12+0=12$
– Worcesterberry	$11+1=12$
– Japanese wineberry	$12+2=14$
– Aronia	$10+1=11$
– Elderberry	$44+2=46$
– Blueberries	$57+5=62$

comments

loganberries, etc are high maintenance

None, fruit in the summer months will get eaten by wildlife and attract wasps etc. Sounds lovely but not ideal in a public space
(This person said not to be contacted again)

Sloe

Raspberries need a lot of maintenance This needs taking into account for choices

Never heard of some of these!

Make sure berries are clearly labelled as the ones in the garden by the sports centre have no labels so people who do not know the difference between redcurrants and berries on trees and bushes that may be poisonous are able to pick them with the knowledge they are edible.
(I've sent this person an email)

Herbs

Sage	$63+5=68$
– Rosemary	$72+4=76$
– Mint	$68+4=72$
– Lemon balm	$55+3=58$

- Dill	48+3=51
- Wild garlic	59+6=55
- Oregano/marjoram	53+5=58
- Thyme	68+5=73

Marjoram,

maybe include lavender, or is the site too damp?

Not sure if it isn't a bit wet for some of these

Mint will spread too much

Lavender, fennel,

Parsley. Wild garlic is very smelly!

Lavender, tall growing variety. The pruned stems can be used as B B Q skewers.

Mint and wild garlic spread like bad 'ens

Borage is nice for bees!

Any herbs will attract insects/butterflies and bees

I also have salad burnet potted up for you

The wetness of the area needs to be taken into account. How about sorrel

Lemon verbena

Any, mint in containers as it spreads so

Chives, fennel

Other

Rhubarb	53+4=57
- Strawberries	47+4=51
- Annual allotment vegetables	49+3=52
- Hazelnut for coppicing	33+2=35 =34.3%
- Chestnut for coppicing	20+2=22 =21%
- Willow for coppicing	28+2=30 =29%

- Asparagus	25+2=27
- Comfrey	18+3=21
- Perennial leaves for salad	43+5=48
- Grapes	21+2=23
- Kiwi	14+3=17
- Globe artichokes	15+2=17
- Jerusalem artichokes	11+2=13

Comments

Jerusalem artichokes may be a bit too rampant and spread too much

Wild strawberries yes. Blocking 14 comfrey not wild.

Pumpkins for Halloween?

Not Jerusalem artichokes - they can become extremely invasive.

Perennial brassicas

Small version of the willow cathedral in long run meadow, Taunton or other live willow structure
Flowers, eg sweet peas

Data

I live within walking distance of the site	54+3=57
- I live in Rockwell Green	31+0=31
- I live in Wellington	47
- I live outside of Wellington	8+7=15
- I'm interested in getting involved with this community garden	32
- My children/grandchildren are interested	18+1=19
- My group is interested	3
- I have a disability	4

– I'm part of the Transition Town Wellington group	15+6=21
– I'm interested in environmental issues	49+6=55
– I'd rather not sa	2

Any other comments

If doing disabled access vegetable beds, they will need a strong gardening “buddy”

A sign about the creation of the space and how it came to be. Also with a special thanks on it to those who made it possible.

May be an idea to grow things which are lower maintenance because if the support and help varies it won't be such a pressure.

Love the ideas

Good luck! Sounds great.

Maybe some signage about the health benefits of the foods grown there.

Always a great way for community interaction. With varied seasonal planting creating interest all year for children to learn from and insects to thrive.

It all sounds great!

A space which brings a heart to this community garden

Such a brilliant idea well done everyone

The shelter could be cordwood which is small logs with cob mortar

This is such a cool project.

Perennial flowers, wild flower meadow

There are plenty of places for people to walk their dogs, growing food and preserving wildlife can only be well done if dogs can be excluded.

Children's planting area

(One person mentioned that fruit will attract wasps. We can not deny this is true, however wasps can be attracted by many things. last year they were really bothering me when I was removing brassica stumps. I personally am the most afraid of wasps of anyone I have met, however as a keen gardener, I have learnt that generally, if the wasps are interested in a fruit or flower, they won't bother you. They are at their most annoying late in the season, when the males are kicked out of the nest with no more young to feed, and wander around annoying you on a picnic. Wasps are a fact of life and you will be hard pressed to avoid them altogether. We will however make every effort to deal with any nests we find, if they are felt to be a danger to the public, just as we felt with a nest found on Post Close site during our maintenance last year. As there was not yet any fruit on site, and they made their nest in a mouse hole, it proves that there can be a nest anywhere. As this site is near a school we felt it was in the best interest of safety to get it treated. If there is a nest away from where anyone will disturb it, we may feel it is better left; after all they are pollinators too and we want to avoid using any chemicals onsite.)

