

Note of the Workshop

Glasgow Food Growing Strategy Workshop - outdoor learning Thematic Garscadden/Scotshounhill and Drumchapel/Anniesland Wards

4-6pm, 1 May 2019, Peterson Park Centre, Glasgow

1. Introduction

Greenspace Scotland, on behalf of Glasgow City Council, hosted an informal workshop to inform the development of their local food growing strategy. It was sixth in a series of eight workshops taking place in 2019. Previous consultations had already been held in 2017 covering Southside Central/Pollokshields and Partick East/Victoria Park.

The workshop was facilitated by greenspace scotland. Glasgow City Council wanted to engage with as many groups and individuals, from the area, interested in community food growing as possible - to shape its Food Growing Strategy, create a vision for the future and identify how the Council, organisations and individuals can work together towards this.

This report details the full responses from everyone that took part in the Garscadden/Scotshounhill and Drumchapel/Anniesland Wards workshop and is intended as an accurate record for participants and Glasgow City Council. A final combined report will be created that takes account of the outcomes from all eight workshops.

Attendance

People could sign up to the event using Eventbrite and were initially invited to do so by emails from greenspace scotland and communications by Glasgow City Council. Social media was used to promote the workshops and a press release was issued by Glasgow City Council. The invitation was open and anyone could attend. 50 spaces out of a possible 50 were booked in advance with a waiting list.

19 people attended the event representing - 3 community groups, 2 organisations, 7 individuals and 7 representatives from education (Pikeman Family Learning Centre, West Dunbartonshire Council, Glasgow City Council).

Event Format

Following a welcome and a presentation of the background to the food growing strategy and its planned development the attendees took part in short workshops to gather their knowledge and ideas. Soup and bread were served half way through - catering was provided by social enterprise Milk café.

This was the second workshop where a theme in relation to food growing was explored as well as the local context. The theme was **food growing and outdoor learning** and it was one of the workshop choices during the evening. Liz Stewart from the Royal Horticultural Society set the outdoor learning context by a presentation highlighting the work of the Royal Horticulture Society and their outdoor learning experiences and campaigns.

2. Workshop 1 – Where, why and why don't you grow your own?

If you grow your own where do you do it?

Participant placed stickers on the relevant type/site of growing on the Our Growing Community poster (**total number 15**).

Growing Space	Number (total number 15)
individual gardens	4
School grounds	4
Allotment sites	3

Health sector NHS estates	2
Community garden	2

Why do you grow your own?

Participants placed a post it with their name on the reason that applied to them on the chart supplied by greenspace scotland. If there were a number of reasons they were asked to identify the main reason.

The total number of responses was 22.

Reason	Number (total 22)
other – please say why	9
It's fun and enjoyable	4
to spend time outdoors	3
to save money	2
because it tastes better	2
to reduce food miles	1
to get exercise	1

Other reasons listed for growing your own:

1. To teach children outdoors area and in classroom
2. To benefit mental health
3. Process of growth to the reward
4. I'm vegetarian
5. To develop service users' skills
6. To introduce volunteers to Growing

If you don't grow your own why don't you?

Participants placed a post it with their name on the reason that applies to them on the chart supplied by greenspace scotland.

Reason	Number (Total 8)
Can't get an allotment	3
Don't know how to /lack of gardening skills	2
No garden	2
Don't have time	1

3. Workshop 2 – Mapping Activity?

Participants could mark growing sites that they are aware of on the maps covering the Garscadden/Scotshounhill and Drumchapel/Annie'sland Wards of Glasgow and were also asked to identify potential growing sites. There were 2 options for identifying the locations:

- Plot growing sites on paper maps
- Complete a paper form with site information

All locations will be plotted on to a single GIS digital map. 19 sites were marked on a combination of the paper maps and the forms.

All participants were given the opportunity to find out more about the Open Space Strategy Local Context Analysis documents while the mapping exercise took place.

4. Workshop 3 – Support and encouragement for community growing?

Participants discussed two questions in small groups and wrote their suggestions down. Headings are derived from suggestions given.

Question 1 - What would encourage you or others to grow more?

Access to land

- Land availability
- Site availability very poor
- More council allotments

Biodiversity

- need to stop cutting grass and develop more wildflower and wildlife meadows

Education

- start with children to encourage growing - keep it simple

Promotion and publicity

- more planting in city centre raise profile of gardening/ planting city wide
- best kept garden (competition) local

Skills/training/peer support

- local information on growing for the area you live in specific to West of Scotland
- start simple: potatoes, leeks, radish, lettuce
- more knowledge, encourage interest
- more training opportunities
- involvement with local groups to learn from them

Support structures in place

- work with the weather - know the vegetables that works with our weather
- support

Tools/plants/resources

- container growing in individual containers - even just potatoes
- soil type for each vegetable and drainage requirements
- find tools at car boot sales
- funding
- lower cost, soil provided by GCC
- tool sharing and libraries
- provision of wood and chipping by the Council - but into on now to use it must be composted first
- seed swapping
- plant swap
- seed/potato exchange - west end

Volunteers/community interest

- people who already have an allotment could take on an "assistant" to help them

Question 2 - What support is currently being provided where you live?

Access to land

- Allotments but large waiting list
- Kingsway Community Garden, Opportunity to garden (only 6 on waiting list)

- 18 Raised beds and communal beds

Education

- Create more educational courses especially at degree level so people in Glasgow don't need to travel

Skills

- advice, guidance and infos from Garden Development workers

Tools/plants/resources

- Scotstown Allotments - Victoria Park Allotments do plant/ produce sales
- available/ non need for: tools, equipment, seeds free

Volunteers/community interest

- Volunteer Opportunities, NHS Gartnavel Hospital Growing Spaces

Other

- Lack of info on local area, Old Drumchapel
- none that I know of

5. Outdoor learning and Food growing

Introduction

This was the second event where a theme in relation to food growing was explored as well as the local context. The theme was outdoor learning and food growing and it was also one of the workshop choices during the evening.

Liz Stewart, Development manager for RHS in Scotland had set the outdoor learning context by a presentation highlighting the work of the Royal Horticulture Society and their outdoor learning experiences and campaigns.

8 participants opted to take part in the outdoor learning and food growing workshop – six of these were currently delivering outdoor learning in work settings (nursery, family centres) and two wanted to learn more in order to involve children and families in allotment and growing activities. The Pikeman family centre uses Knightswood Park for Forest School.

Available resources

Participants were introduced to a few key resources for support of outdoor learning and growing activities. Further resources are described in Appendix 1 the resource sheet which was handed out at the event.

Social Farms and Gardens fact sheet: Growing with families, groups and schools:

- Brief introduction to making your project child-friendly
- Relevant legislation and good practice
- Activity suggestions to enthuse children – types of gardens: rainbow gardens, wildlife gardens, bog gardens types of activities: Dens, picture frames

Education Scotland: Food for thought:

- resources designed to allow practitioners to plan for progression through the levels of broad general education in a Scottish food context

- links between food and areas of Curriculum for Excellence

Learning through landscapes Scotland:

(previously Grounds for Learning) LtL have many free resources on their website. From a “shared vision and values for outdoor play in Early Years” to lesson ideas “recycled planters”

SNH learning in local greenspace

A resource and supporting documents to help find; access and use your local greenspace for learning. Also called “beyond your boundary” The aim is to empower educators to access greenspaces near schools and nurseries.

RSH campaign for school gardening resources

Schools (and youth groups and community groups) can sign up to the campaign

- Registration is free and participants receive a free welcome pack containing seeds, plant labels, stickers, posters and more
- Receive great rewards, certificates and support as you progress through the School Gardening Awards
- Gain access to free, downloadable resources including information sheets, practical activities and lesson plans to help you make the most of your school garden

Participants mentioned that they had also received support from

- TCV
- Sowing Seeds, Glasgow (for practical work and in-service day for staff)
<http://www.sowing-seeds.co.uk/>
- Mindstretchers, Crieff (for Forest School Training) <https://www.mindstretchers.co.uk/>
- Heart of Scoutstoun community garden
- Kingsway?

Considerations when accessing greenspaces for growing/outdoor learning

Inspired by the SNH “Greenspace audit” from the Learning in local greenspaces resource the workshop explored what practitioners are looking for in spaces before they decide to use them for outdoor learning and growing activities.

The SNH greenspace audit looks at:

- Site appraisal – access
- Site character and learning potential
- Potential hazards

Comments from participants under those headings included:

Site appraisal – access

- Clear boundaries
- Accessible to all (disabilities, fitness)
- Accessible – are we allowed to go there?
- Walking distance

Site character and learning potential

- Variety of habitats to maximise learning opportunities and activities
- Local interpretation e.g. fact sheets, signage, suggested uses, culture/history facts

Potential hazards

- Safe from needles, broken glass, water bodies, traffic

- Toilet facilities
- Appropriate outdoor clothing

In addition, the practitioners highlighted how it is important to have staff that have an interest in the outdoors and to have the appropriate staff ratios to go outside. It is also key to be given enough time to enough time to upkeep a garden on the premises.

Providers also need access to training & funding and help to engage community groups in and the wider school communities school/nursery gardens.

Appendix 1

Outdoor Learning and greenspace/growing resources

Outdoor Learning Directory

There is a wealth of outdoor learning resources in the **Outdoor Learning Directory**.
<http://outdoorlearningdirectory.com/index.php/home/>

RSH campaign for school gardening resources (they also have a development worker for West Scotland) <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/home>

Schools (and youth groups and community groups) can sign up to the campaign

- Registration is free
- Receive a free welcome pack containing seeds, plant labels, stickers, posters and more
- Receive great rewards, certificates and support as you progress through the School Gardening Awards
- Gain access to free, [downloadable resources](#) including information sheets, practical activities and lesson plans to help you make the most of your school garden
- Discover our programme of school gardening training courses designed to give you the confidence to create learning experiences that impact children's achievement, health and well-being
- Take part in our competitions for a chance to win great gardening prizes
- Receive regular newsletters containing the latest news, offers and advice
- Read our School Stories and get inspiration from what other schools are doing their garden
- Log in and find news, training courses and information specific to your local area

Training courses with a "train the trainer approach" are aimed at teachers, but youth leaders and charity workers can also attend <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Training-courses-and-events/Search?region=20&page=1>

Other RHS programmes and campaigns via Campaign for School Gardening:

Big Soup Share 2019 <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Competitions/Big-Soup-Share>

Any schools, youth groups or community groups based in the UK can take part and apply to receive pack full of resources to help with their events, now live, events to take place in October; focus is growing, sharing, celebrating

Green Plan It Challenge <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/11-19-years/Green-Plan-It>– aimed at secondary schools, paired with mentors, to design a greenspace for a purpose; initially academic challenge but there is also bursaries for participating schools to carry out their project. National programme with a Scottish hub (launching in both Glasgow and Edinburgh, with celebration being held in Edinburgh).

Greening Great Britain – national programme where intergenerational partnership form to undertake a micro-greening project with RHS hands-on support and £500 budget. There are 8-10 projects in Scotland, 50+ around the UK, supported by Outreach Advisors. Underway at present but will probably launch again in the autumn/winter for delivery in 2020 and could potentially connect in with local authorities.

SNH learning in local greenspace <https://www.nature.scot/learning-local-greenspace-downloads>

A resource and supporting documents to help find; access and use your local greenspace for learning. It includes "easy steps" document, case studies, greenspace audit and questionnaire and action plan template.

Learning through Landscapes Scotland (previously known as Grounds for Learning)

<https://www.ltl.org.uk/ltlscotland/>

- The Good School Playground Guide
https://www.ltl.org.uk/resources/good_school_playground_design/
- The Playtime revolution - free Support Staff CPD on supporting free play in schools
<https://www.ltl.org.uk/resources/playtime-revolution/>
- View and download other relevant free resources they have written particularly 'This Place is Like a Building Site' booklet and DVD (regarding introducing loose materials into the grounds) and our School Orchards booklet <https://www.ltl.org.uk/free-resources/>
- Parents, staff and children can watch any of the free short videos that Grounds for Learning have created (filmed in schools they have supported) via the You Tube channel www.youtube.com/schoolgroundsuk Wide range of topics including loose play, free play and taking the curriculum outdoors. Follow the links for developing your outdoor space.
- If you sign the school up as a 'Supporter' member through the membership section of the Grounds for Learning website www.ltl.org.uk/scotland (click membership tab at the top of the homepage), the teaching staff can access over 120 outdoor lesson plans and activities (amongst a myriad of other resources)

A couple of other ways which Learning through Landscapes Scotland can support (which involve a cost)

- Annual networking event takes place every September. Based around a choice of several workshops and school workshops, the whole day focuses on risk and challenge in learning in the school playground in a practical, hands on, way. Always great fun! More info and booking through our website with the venue central belt.
- They can support your school with a site visit tailored to your needs. More info here <http://www.ltl.org.uk/spaces/resources-sitevisits.php>
- Info on training courses from Learning through Landscapes Scotland to help staff on the journey towards a better playground <https://www.ltl.org.uk/training-and-events/>

Eco Schools

Info on how the schools outdoor developments will help you towards the Eco Schools programme <https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainable-development-education/eco-schools>

Architecture and Design Scotland Resources

Their outdoor learning document has some info about briefing and opportunities as well as some case studies. <https://www.ads.org.uk/outdoor-learning-the-extended-classroom/>

There's also an animation which just gives an overview of what outdoor learning is.

<https://www.ads.org.uk/outdoor-learning-the-extended-classroom-animation/>

Social Farms and Gardens fact sheet: Growing with families, groups and schools groups and schools

https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/system/files/engaging_schools_children_and_families_0.pdf

Education Scotland: Food for thought: resources designed to allow practitioners to plan for progression through the levels of broad general education, to inform next steps, challenge, breadth and application in a Scottish food context

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learningresources/Food%20for%20Thought%20support%20resources>