



SOCIAL ORCHARDS

COMMUNITY FOOD GROWING

Vision

Social Orchards is a not-for-profit enterprise that transforms neglected publicly accessible areas into community orchards and forest gardens. We plant fruit trees within the built environment, creating habitats for nature where possible. These green spaces boost people's wellbeing and help them live happier, healthier lives.

With local people we produce free healthy food for the whole community. Our volunteers enjoy quality time outdoors, learn new skills, or pass knowledge on to others. These tranquil places also create a sense of belonging and help people make lasting memories.



Ventures

Our first initiative was a 150-tree community orchard at the 'BedZed' zero-carbon development in Hackbridge, South London. When mature, the trees will provide a harvest of familiar, exotic and heritage fruit and nuts including apples, pears, plums, medlars, quinces, mulberries, apricots, nectarines, almonds and walnuts. The site is developing into a multilayered forest garden with herbs and strawberries growing among the orchard trees. We also transform other neglected corners. The smallest has only one tree but others have a wider selection of fruit and herb plants to pick for free.



Environment

Urban fruit trees improve rainwater runoff and help capture carbon. As well as giving shade, they support insects and provide habitat for a wide range of wildlife. Well-managed orchards also inspire local people to take care and pride in their environment.



Education

We've partnered with local schools to give children the chance to be active, learn how their food grows and enjoy nature.

Adults love learning too, so we work with community groups, to keep education at the core of all we do.



Celebrations

Community orchards provide a focus for cultural events that bring diverse communities together for feasting and fun.

We aim to hold events throughout the year – from Winter Wassail to Summer Solstice, Diwali to Harvest Festival, Easter to Eid.



Connections

As a National Park City Maker, Social Orchards is supporting the London National Park City programme. This scheme connects individuals, communities, businesses and government agencies to work together to create a greener and healthier London.

Social Orchards is currently working on planting sites all along the Wandle Valley Trail from Croydon to Wandsworth and has sites spanning the width of London from Wembley to Walthamstow.

Poster written and designed by Sue Spenceley-Burch: 07802 273693



NATIONAL PARK CITY MAKER*

cultivate london
growing together

Social Farms & Gardens

Contact

Social Orchards
103 Denmark Road
Carshalton
SM5 2JE

e: info@socialorchards.co.uk
t: 020 8669 0439
w: socialorchards.co.uk

@SocialOrchards
 Social Orchards