

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF URBAN GARDENING



Villa Community Garden, Hull, U.K.

Villa Community Garden and Food-Co-op Shop are situated in the Thornton Estate, a challenging and diverse part of Hull, one of the most deprived places in the U.K. They were funded as a project together five years ago. The community garden has small plots for residents and general growing areas to run sessions for school children and young people, which produce food for the shop. Raised beds have been created for wheelchair access. Eastern European plotholders have been teaching the British how to pickle produce. Due to increasing levels of food poverty, the Food Co-op is starting a Food Pantry, working on a membership of £2 (3Euro) a week, with non-perishable food supported by garden produce. The aim is to create a Food Hub for the community. Wildlife is important to this city centre location and wild growing spaces run alongside.



YWT Wildlife Garden, Hull, U.K.

The YWT Wildlife Garden is next to the University District of Hull, surrounded by many thriving independent businesses and situated in larger green space which has a well-established history. The garden aims to promote wildlife and biodiversity in the City. The site has a mature herb garden, food growing planters, beehives, a demonstration garden of what can be grown at home, a cob oven and an outdoor community arts space. There is also a woodland walk and pond. It is open 9-5, seven days a week, with the public welcome to take produce. Volunteers to the site include residents wanting to gain new skills, keep fit and socialise. The site runs sessions for children and adults. The next plan for the site is to put in signage so people can educate themselves as they immerse themselves in the garden. It has been running for 25 years.