



WESTCOTT COMMUNITY GARDEN



<https://southswindon-pc.gov.uk/westcott-community-garden/>





Westcott Community Garden is a peaceful and secure communal garden. It is a shared space, where various groups and organisations come together to grow, socialise and experience activities while getting closer to nature.

Huge thanks to all volunteers, organisations and groups who make the garden the inviting place that it is!

- Stonewater
- Swindon Youth Voice
- Grow to Give
- South Swindon in Bloom
- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
- Swindon Borough Council
- Live Well Swindon
- Voluntary Action Swindon
- South Swindon Parish Council
- Churchward School
- IPSUM

Many people use and benefit from this shared space; in a number of different ways. Please help make this space safe, clean and inclusive so that it is the best it can be:



If you see litter, pick it up! We always have a black bag on the go and want to keep the space tidy. Please take your rubbish away with you.



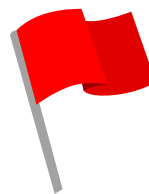
Please join our shared vision for the site and maintain the site plan where possible. If you have any ideas, please share with the group! It is likely we want the same thing.



Please follow all health and safety guidelines while using the site. Make sure you read Stonewater's Risk Assessment (located at the gate) to keep everyone safe.



If you see a green flag like this, please feel free to pick me, but leave enough for someone else. Please weed me, feed me or water me – i'd really appreciate it!



If you see a red flag like this, please do leave me. I don't mind if I am not weeded. I am being looked after and I am destined for someone else. – If you want to me – i'd really appreciate it!



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WESTCOTT SITE LAYOUT 2026

COMMUNITY GARDEN



Key

-  TREES AND BUSHES
-  DEAD HEDGING
-  ORGANIC MATERIAL / SOIL
-  HARDSTANDING FOR ACCESSIBILITY
-  SEATING
-  BUG HOTEL AND TABLES
-  RAISED BEDS
-  WATER COLLECTION
-  SHED
-  POLYTIUNNEL
-  MULCHED / BARKED WALKWAY
-  COMPOSTING STATION
-  FLOWERS - NOT SPECIFIED
-  FRUIT AND VEGETABLES - NOT SPECIFIED
-  FRUIT TREES
-  SHELTER

Contact communities@southswindon-pc.gov.uk for more information

NOT TO SCALE

WHAT3WORDS
///green.vibe.levels



People: Users and Groups

The site is home to a growing number of volunteers and groups.

Volunteers

There are around 5 volunteers / residents who visit the site regularly and really keep things together. They look after several of the raised beds and work hard to water, weed and cut back vegetation as much as possible.

There are many others who participate in group activities.

Swindon Youth Voice Project

This project is designed to help young people grow in confidence and to make a difference to the world around them. It is a partnership between organisations such as Voluntary Action Swindon, Young Swindon and Wiltshire, Swindon & Gloucestershire Mind and Prime Theatre.

Young People from this project have also adopted a raised bed and have planted it with herbs. They are particularly focussed on intergenerational working and engaging with nature.

This group benefits from having access to this space, as it is a safe and secure garden located near to their regular meeting space in the Railway Village. They have visited the site a few times to play games, picnic and enjoy the garden. They hope to contribute to the site further through painting and sign writing / labelling.

Churchward School

Churchward School is located at the University Technical College in the Railway Village and have also adopted a bed. The school hopes to utilise the garden for student health, wellbeing and recreation, as well as run activities such as gardening and art. This is a valuable space for the school, as they have limited access to green space and GWR Park can get quite busy which limits what they can do from a Health and Safety and safeguarding standpoint.

The students have planted pumpkins and other plants and have visited the site on several occasions to water. They have also visited the site to paint their raised bed and often get involved in other initiatives such as public living rooms.

IPSUM

Ipsium is a Mental Health and Wellbeing Charity supporting Swindon and the surrounding area. They run a programme of therapy sessions and social wellbeing events. IPSUM has supported activities on the site such as public living rooms, with music and art, and are also aiming to host workshops and events in the future.

Live Well Swindon

Live Well Swindon have supported work to maintain the site, during a team volunteering day, and are exploring opportunities to adopt a raised bed. It is hoped that the raised bed could yield surplus food that can be given to various food provisions.

Wiltshire Wildlife Wellbeing Team

The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust wellbeing team run a programme of sessions to improve mental and physical wellbeing through outdoor nature activities. This programme involves visiting multiple gardening sites, so they often visit around once every 12 weeks. They have supported a range of improvements on site, along with the Forest Meadows Volunteer team, such as filling raised beds and dead hedging.

Grow to Give



Bright posies of flowers grown at Westcott Community Garden have been given to local people through the Grow to Give project. Flowers to brighten days, give a little boost or say thank you and well done.

This is a community project focused on growing flowers, so they can be given away. They have adopted 2 raised beds in the garden and are working closely with volunteers to support wider site maintenance.

Instagram: @grow_to_give_swindon



MAY 2025



MAY 2025



JUNE 2025



JUNE 2025

Throughout the year, we have been working together to regenerate the site . As you can see, the site was rather overgrown and under-used. It is difficult for volunteers to access the polytunnel , and use the site for growing generally. This year has been all about making the site more accessible, and showing that the garden is for everyone. Even Commonweal school students got stuck in, and helped us build a woodchip path so that we can access the polytunnel in the winter months. to extend our growing season.



JULY 2025



JULY 2025



JULY 2025



AUGUST 2025



SEPTEMBER 2025



SEPTEMBER 2025



SEPTEMBER 2025



NOVEMBER 2025

We have hosted corporate volunteer sessions, public engagement events, workshops and activities, and even public living rooms. We added new raised beds, fixed the shed and updated the fence to become more secure and provide better access . We even had a shelter made to make the site more welcoming, and for the welfare of volunteers and visitors. All additions have been funded by Stonewater, and completed by volunteers and South Swindon Parish Council.



NOVEMBER 2025



JANUARY 2026



FEBRUARY 2026



MARCH 2026



APRIL 2026



APRIL 2026



APRIL 2026



MAY 2026

We had a very busy spring, making a start on filling the beds, and planting them with flowers and veg. We continued adding to the Dead Hedge, completed by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust during the winter.

Westcott Community Garden is home to a range of wildlife, and they all seem very happy with recent changes. Even the hedgehogs have better access to the site with the hedgehog highways added in June.



MAY 2025



JUNE 2026



JUNE 2026



JUNE 2026



JUNE 2026



JUNE 2026



JUNE 2026



JUNE 2026

We have welcomed new visitors, from neighbours to strangers coming from all over Swindon. People dropped into our Public Living Rooms, and everyone came together for the Million Acts of Hope Campaign.



JUNE 2026



JUNE 2026



JUNE 2026



JUNE 2025









WESTCOTT

COMMUNITY GARDEN

JUNE 2025-JUNE 2026

5

Regular
Community
Volunteers

164

Total
Volunteers /
Visitors / Users

30

Individual
Sessions /
Events hosted

4

Corporate
team building
visits

11

Groups /
Organisations
Engaged

1

Workshop
Hosted

64

Hours spent in
the Garden

3

Public Living
Rooms Hosted





A huge thank you to all volunteers and partners who have contributed to this transformation this year. This has only been possible thanks to community collaboration and cooperation. Thank you to Stonewater for continuing to support and fund such a wonderful green space and community asset.

We hope this site will continue to take shape, and continue being used by many people across South Swindon and beyond.

*We are always seeking contributions in the form of sponsorship, donations and volunteer time. If you can help, please get in touch via **communities@southswindon-pc.gov.uk***

