

TRANSFORM THE WALLED GARDEN SPACEHIVE CROWDFUND

Update report

*Friends of Park Hill Park &
Recreation Ground*



FRIENDS OF
PARK HILL PARK
& RECREATION GROUND

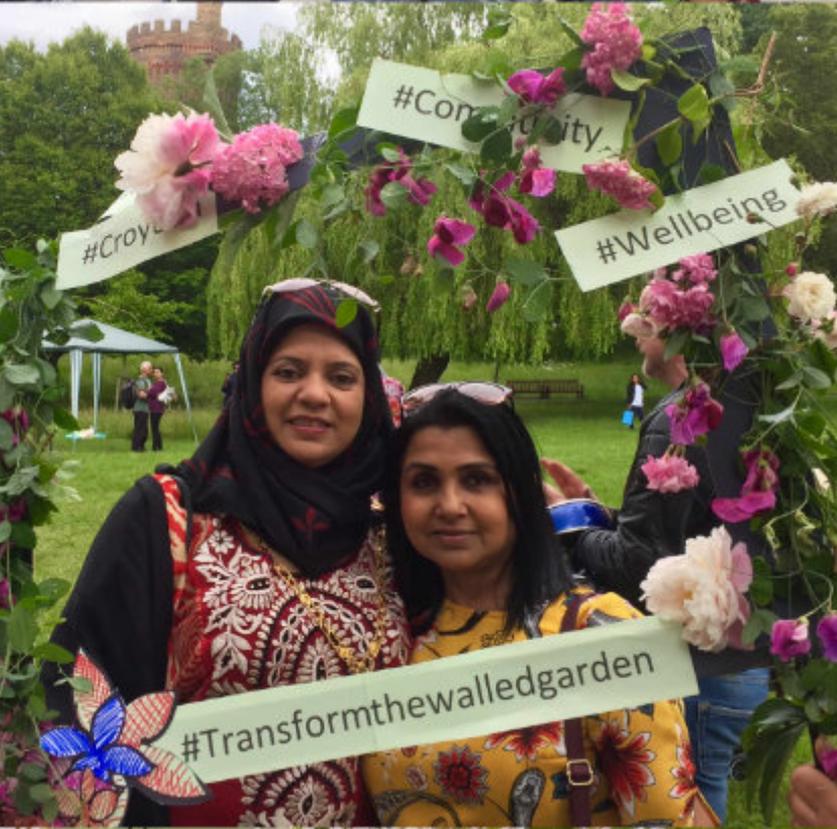


PARK HILL PARK
COMMUNITY
PEACE
GARDEN

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Introduction

The 'Transform the Walled Garden' Spacehive crowdfund campaign (May to August 2019), by the Friends of Park Hill Park volunteers, was part of a 2-year project to rejuvenate and make fully accessible the Walled Garden. This community project has been one of the most successful crowdfund campaigns run in Croydon and the volunteers would like to thank everyone involved.



Friends of Park Hill Park & Recreational Ground at a community gardening session ▲

The crowdfund will deliver:

⚙️ ***New paths inside the 'garden rooms' for disabled and pushchair use.***

An upgrade to existing internal paths, currently worn and in material unsuitable for the site, to allow for safe disabled and pushchair access into each of the 'garden rooms'.

⚙️ ***Install new disabled paths and a meeting/performance space in the Peace Garden.***

In 2018, the Peace Garden was launched as part of the Croydon Peace Festival. It is currently a patchwork of mini gardens created by 12 diverse local community groups. The final part of the design unites the 12 mini gardens with new disabled access paths and a central meeting/performance space, allowing fully inclusive performances, cultural and community meetings, attracting more people to enjoy the Walled Garden.

⚙️ **New planting in the Walled Garden**

Planting across the Walled Garden will be rejuvenated and a new planting scheme put into the existing Peace Garden, framing the new meeting/performance space. As outlined in the Spacehive crowdfunder details there will be a community plant selection event, once COVID guidelines allow.

*Lavender borders will separate the 12 mini gardens. ▶
Please see the drawings for further details.*



Despite COVID delaying the project, work has continued to progress with volunteers following a thorough procurement process in order to satisfy the requirements of the council and GLA, to select eco-friendly materials, a contractor, confirm the site requirements, obtain final costs and do the formal landscape designs. Volunteers have and will continue to present the project to park users, existing partner groups and get new groups involved.

While the fundamental plans for the Walled Garden, as outlined on the artist's impression and in the Spacehive details, have not been greatly modified, practicalities such as the slope (topography) and drainage of the site and the disabled path width requirements of the Sensory Trust and council, have led to some small changes. The resulting design will deliver all the improvements to the Walled Garden as outlined in the crowdfund campaign.



▲ Consultation at Croydon Library, 2019

PLEASE REFER TO THE LANDSCAPE DESIGN PAGE FOR VISUAL AND TECHNICAL REFERENCE.



Modifications to the design:

- ☸ Confirmation by the Sensory Trust and council sites of disabled path widths of 1.2m and 0.8m inside all the 'garden rooms', making the current paths slightly wider and safer.

◀ *The Walled Garden will be made more accessible to those with mobility issues.*

- ☸ To ensure appropriate drainage, and resistance to rainwater and pedestrian erosion, an eco-friendly, water permeable recycled path material, has been selected. It is a mix of bonded 50:50 recycled tyres and coloured stones/pebbles and will be brown/black, not the cream /terracotta coloured paths, seen in the artist's impression.
- ☸ In the artist's impression, the meeting/performance space is a raised platform however, as outlined in the Spacehive description, it will be level and fully accessible to the paths, and surrounded by a low brick seating wall (see photo impression).
- ☸ Due to the topography (slope) of the Peace Garden, the meeting/performance space has been made smaller, still seating approximately 30 people on the seating wall. It will require a 30cm higher exterior wall on one corner, to the north side, than the south, this will be visually minimised by new planting around all the walls (see landscape plan and photo impression).

▼ *Photo impression of the new Walled Garden plans by Dracorum Order*



- ⚙️ The two planned paths to the north and south side of the Peace Garden's meeting/performance space have been removed. This combined with the overall smaller meeting/performance space makes the two planting beds, either side of the space, larger than originally planned (see 2D plan)
- ⚙️ An extra 1.2m access path east to west, across both the Potager and Peace Garden, for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pushchairs.



▲ *Herb / Culinary Garden. Community gardening session.*

This update will available via links at:

- ⚙️ **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/FriendsofParkHillParkCroydon/
- ⚙️ **Twitter:** @parkhillfriends
- ⚙️ **Website:** parkhillpark.org.uk/
- ⚙️ Posters on the Pavilion at Park Hill Park
- ⚙️ Friends Mailchimp newsletter
- ⚙️ **Spacehive crowdfund campaign:** www.spacehive.com/walledgardenheartofthewellbeinghub

We welcome your feedback as Friends of Park Hill Park, as park users, as sponsors of the crowdfund or as a local community group at our email address friendsofparkhillpark@outlook.com by Tuesday the 7th July.

We would like to invite people to join the Friends of Park Hill Park. We have a range of volunteering opportunities on a regular or ad hoc basis on a number of projects.

The following is a detailed explanation of the project.

Objectives of the ‘Transform the Walled Garden’ project:

- ✿ To create safe disabled access into the ‘garden rooms’ of the Walled Garden.
- ✿ To improve all the planting within the Walled Garden with new herbs, roses, shrubs, perennial plants, vegetables and fruits.
- ✿ To maintain the childlike magic of the Potager and Flower Fairy Garden.
- ✿ To unite the Peace Garden’s 12 mini community garden plots with safe wheelchair access paths and a fully accessible meeting/performance space.
- ✿ To create a sympathetic design bearing in mind the history of the Walled Garden.
- ✿ To continue our ethos to be organic, sustainable and where possible recycle.
- ✿ To create a fully inclusive and safe environment that attracts a wide range of people into the Walled Garden, reflecting Croydon’s diverse communities.

Encouraging children to take up gardening ➤



Plans

Please refer to the landscape plan's 2D map and photo impression of the Walled Garden when reviewing the following information about the six 'garden rooms'.

Medicinal and Culinary Herb Gardens

The Culinary Herb and Medicinal 'garden room' designs will be restored with dissecting diagonal paths in both, creating disabled access at 1.2m and 0.8m. These 'garden rooms' are a focal point for use for running the STH (Social and Therapeutic Horticulture) project for which the Friends have funding. The wider diagonal path will allow participants with limited mobility or in wheelchairs to experience and participate in the sensory planting.



▲ *Early surveying for new paths in the Medicinal Herb Garden*

▼ *View of the Walled Garden from the Flower Fairy Garden*



Flower Fairy Garden

The Flower Fairy Garden was re-designed and replanted by the Friends in 2015. The rejuvenated design will have a new disabled access path of 0.8m, following a similar curved line to the current path, and additional new planting relating to the books and poems of Cecily Mary Barker, to whom the garden is dedicated.

Heritage Garden

The Heritage Garden is not part of the current project. The Friends hope to eventually raise funds to have a new planting scheme of heritage plants, fruits and vegetables with new internal disabled paths reflecting the Potager landscaping. The Friends will continue with the same community led design process as with the rest of the garden and ideas are welcome.

Potager

The Potager was first created by volunteers in 2014 and the intention is to maintain the magic quality of the Potager, whilst providing safe disabled and family friendly access. It will have additional new planting and a new path installed 0.8m wide.

An additional new access will be provided to the Potager via a new 1.2m path running east/west across the centre of the bed. This path will link the Potager and the Peace Garden (and possibly the Heritage Garden at a later date) enabling safe easy access for pushchairs, wheelchair users etc.



▲ Gardening in the Potager. Path shown will be upgraded.

▼ Potager



Peace Garden

Launched in 2018, the Peace Garden brings together 12 of Croydon's cultural, charity, religious and community groups, who've helped in the garden design in conjunction with the community gardeners, as well as suggestions from park users during consultations. The first design meetings were held in early 2018, and the design was initially inspired by a number of walled gardens, historic and modern, including that of the Horniman Museum and Gardens.

*Good Gym Croydon volunteers planting
their part of the Peace Garden* ➤



The resulting design consists of a 1.5m deep border of 12 small individual gardens, currently separated by lavender plants and we will be adding rosemary to the design; both plants signify peace. The lavender defines each community's space, allowing them to design their own 'Peace' inspired planting scheme within, creating a patchwork garden – a patchwork of peace.

There will be a new internal wheelchair friendly path of 1.2m, laid parallel to the mini garden border, with new entrances in the centre. The 1.5m depth of the border will allow for easy access for those gardening from the new inner path where gardeners can gather side by side safely to garden socially as they tend the beds. This path also allows people in wheelchairs or mobility scooters to garden or to simply be within the garden and experience the planting through touch, scent and view, which is currently limited by the outer hedging.

▼ *Photo impression of the new Walled Garden plans by Dracorum Order*



In the centre of the Peace Garden, currently completely overgrown, there will be a level 4m x 8m meeting/performance space. It will have two 1.2m exits to the east and west with a low 50cm wall around it with capping stones. Groups meeting in the space can sit on the walls to view events or temporary seating can be added to the adjacent paths. The floor of the meeting/performance space will be level with step free access to the paths.

Due to the topography (slope) within the Peace Garden, the external walls will be of different depths north and south, creating a small 30cm difference in exposed wall between the two ends. Internally it will be level (please see diagram). This depth will be visually minimised by new planting. At either end of the new meeting/performance space will be two large flower beds. As laid out in the Spacehive crowdfund details, the planting for these beds and others will be chosen at a community plant selection event.

Materials

The new disabled access paths inside the 'garden rooms' and the floor of the meeting/performance space will be a 50:50 bonded mix of chopped recycled car tyres and natural coloured stones/pebbles.

This eco-friendly product was chosen over more traditional paving options because it contained a recycled element, did not require solid concrete foundations, is erosion resistant and allows free draining of rain water into the soil below. The existing bitumen / tarmac paths in the Walled Garden will not be changed as they remain the responsibility of Croydon Council.

The wall around the Peace Garden's central meeting/performance space will be of brick to match those used on the external walls of the Walled Garden and the inside wall rendered and painted in the short term; in the long term it will be covered with hand-made ceramic tiles, each one sponsored and designed by local people and made by a local ceramic artist. This design feature was suggested by members of the Indian community during the consultation process.

The tops of the walls will be surmounted with capping stones, angled slightly towards the inside of the space to allow rain run-off. The capping stones can be used for seating during events such as community meetings, watching performances, children's story time events, relaxing etc.



▲ *Material research for the paths*



▲ Different communities who have got involved such as Faiths Together in Croydon and Good Gym Croydon

Policies

The Friends volunteers will continue working using organic, sustainable, eco-friendly and or recycled products where possible. Please see our website for policy details.

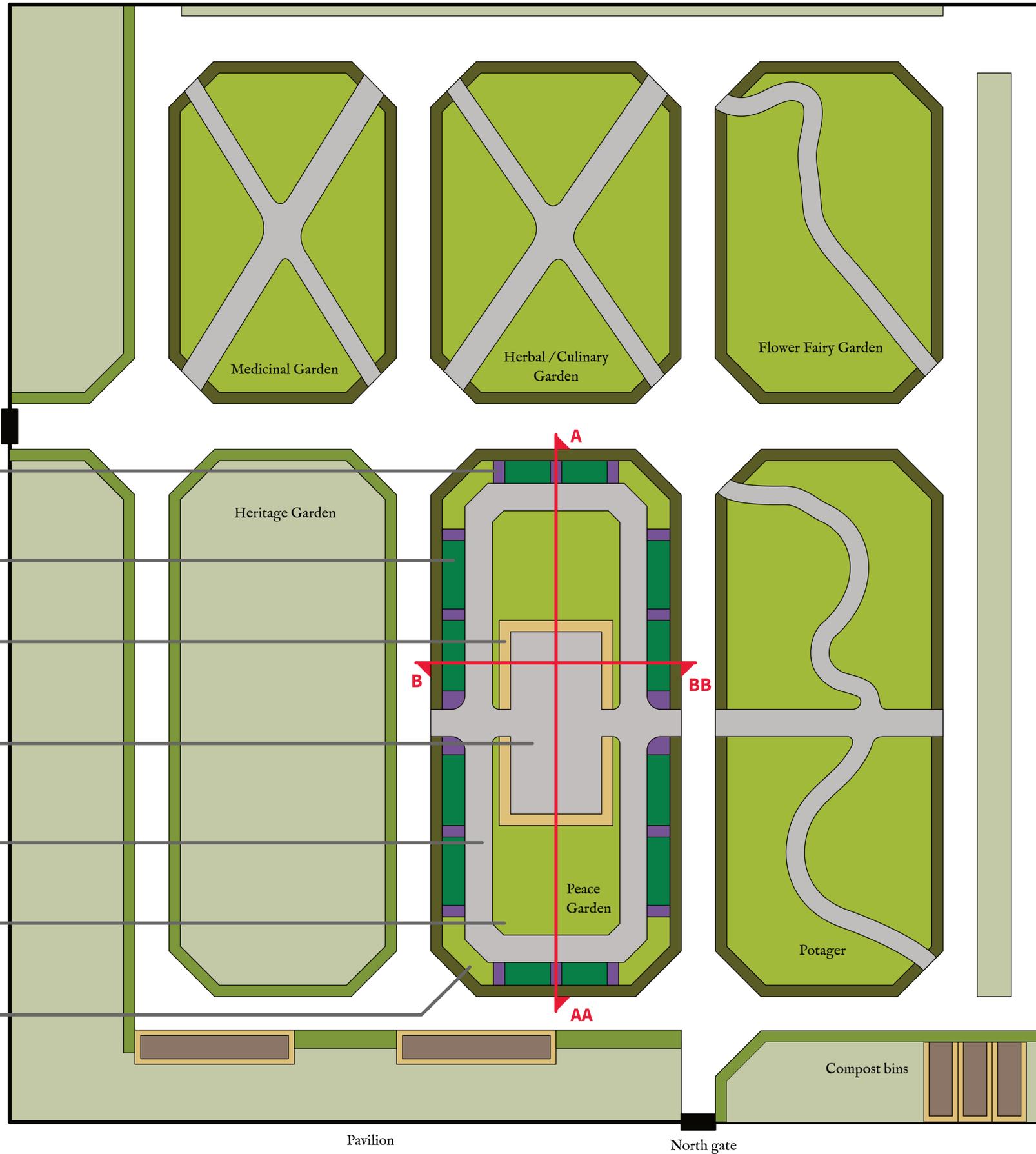
Local community groups currently involved in this project to date include: The Dialogue Society, The Lighthouse Educational Org., Faiths Together in Croydon, Croydon Quakers, Croydon Soroptimists, Good Gym Croydon, Crisis, Chinese Church of London, Croydon Extinction Rebellion, MIND in Croydon, South Croydon Community Association, Lives not Knives, The Food Resilience Project, The Music Relief Foundation.v

Groups who have expressed interest in using the meeting/performance space include: Slide Dance, Beeja Dance, Dance Festival Croydon, The London Mozart Players, Insight Jazz, Shaniqua Benjamin, Croydon Community Choir, Well Versed Ink, We Tango Together, Savvy Theatre, Croydon Authors and Writers Group.



TRANSFORM THE WALLED GARDEN

A volunteer-led community project



- Lavender hedging**
Repeated hedging approx. 0.5m x depth of bed.
- Community plots**
Planting in these beds will be done by community groups in beds 1-12.
- Seating wall**
Individual sponsored tiles will cover the inside of the space with messages from the community.
- Meeting & performance area**
8 x 4m space for performances and meetings. Name to be decided via public competition.
- New paths**
Fully accessible and permeable paths made of a mix of recycled tyres and gravel.
- Communal planting**
To soften visual impact of seating wall. Planting will be decided and done with the community.
- Corner planting**
Planting in these areas will be done by the friends group. Planting in all 4 corner beds will match.

Walled Garden
Park Hill Park & Reaction Ground, Croydon
Scale 1:100



Section A-AA



Section B-BB

