

# Mellison Road Pocket Park:

Providing community space, encouraging active travel and creating sustainable drainage systems.



[Find out more about this Scheme](#)

Cross River Partnership's [Healthy Streets Everyday](#) (HSE) Programme has helped to fund a community pocket park on the streets of the Gravenel Gardens estate on Mellison Road, London Borough of Wandsworth. The park covers 240 square metres which was previously home to some unkept shrubbery and a car park. Now the area incorporates a rain garden to reduce the risk of flooding, as well as several new trees, a picnic area, additional seating and a playground for the younger residents of the estate.

Streetscape changes to Mellison Road were also incorporated as part of the pocket park scheme, helping to improve local air quality and encourage more active travel. For example, the road now has a one-way vehicular traffic system, but with a cycle contraflow (two-way system) to encourage more cycling in the area. Similarly, pavement widening has been incorporated as part of the scheme to make more space for people walking to and from the park.

“ This is a really welcome environmental initiative that has seen the removal of tarmac and its replacement with trees and shrubs. It is now the perfect spot for a new, welcoming and greener community space. It has the potential to be a wonderful little green oasis, providing local people with a place to relax and unwind and hold community events, while installing play equipment here is great news for young people and their parents and provides a real focal point for families in the area. ”

Councillor John Locker, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transportation



## Incorporating Sustainable Drainage Systems

The Mellison Road Pocket Park incorporates a rain garden as part of its design. This is a type of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) - a natural approach to managing drainage in and around properties and other developments. The rain garden helps to maximise the amount of surface water that can drain into the subsoil, helping to relieve pressure on the local sewer network and reduce flood risk. Grasses and wildflowers have also been planted in the rain garden to enhance biodiversity and to filter out pollutants from surface rainwater.

Rain gardens are one of several greening methods that can be used to tackle major climate challenges such as flooding, extreme heat and air quality. To learn more about the benefits of greening (including SuDS) and how it can be used for climate adaptation, take a look at the HSE Guidance Document "[Greening out the Grey: The value of Green Infrastructure of People and Places](#)".

## The Impact



240 square metres of additional community space



Encouraging more walking and cycling



Encouraging outdoor play and improving wellbeing



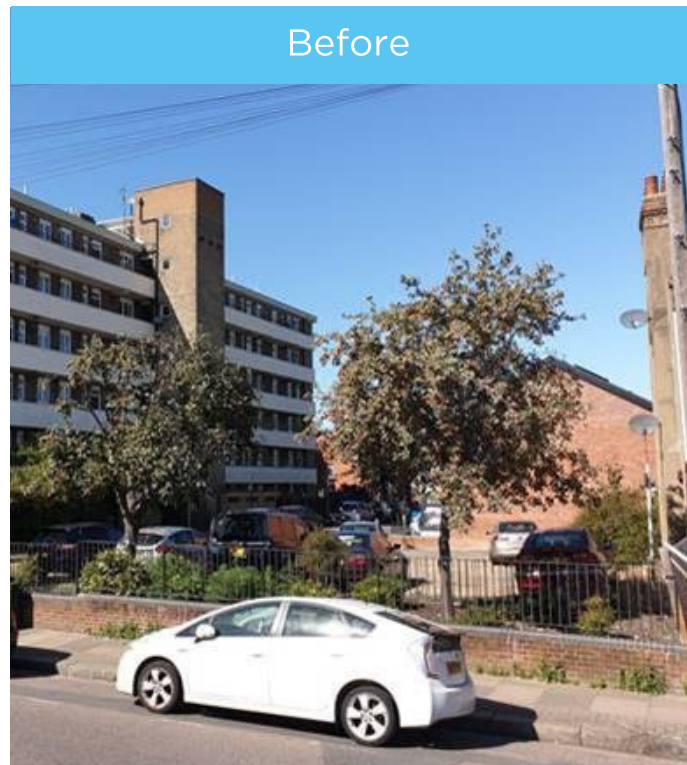
Reducing flood risk



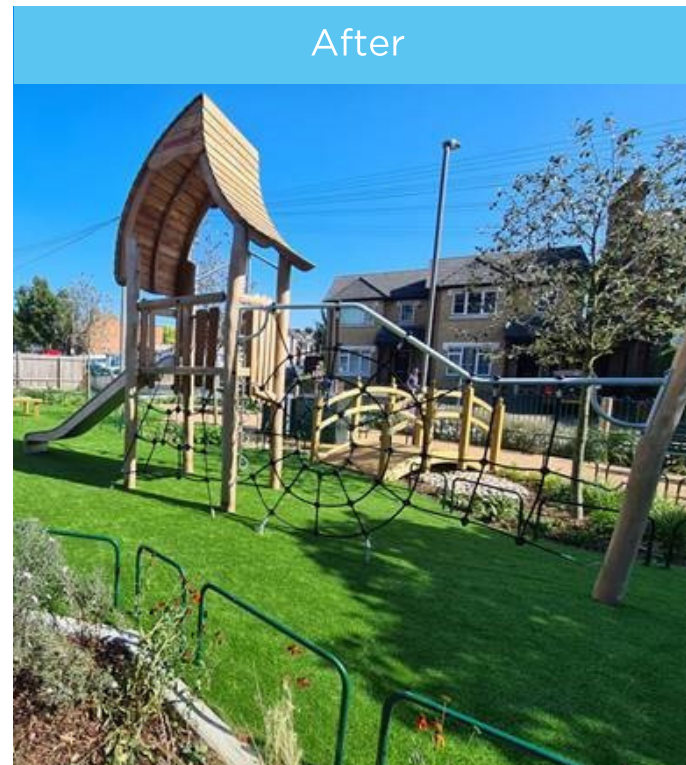
Greening of the local area



Improving biodiversity



Before



After

## What is the Healthy Streets Everyday Programme?

Cross River Partnership's [Healthy Streets Everyday](#) Programme is a 3-year cross-sector project that is funded by the [Mayor's Air Quality Fund](#). The project aims to empower boroughs, businesses and communities across London to deliver pedestrian-priority healthy streets, increase walking rates and reduce emissions and exposure to toxic air pollution.

The programme is also helping to supplement London's COVID response by creating streets that can accommodate and encourage increases in sustainable and active travel, and that are pleasant, safe places that all Londoners' can safely enjoy.

For more information, please visit CRP's [Healthy Streets Everyday Webpage](#).



## Project Partners

Cross River Partnership is proud to be working with the following Local Authorities and other partners.

