

# Going Green:

How small green spaces can make a difference.



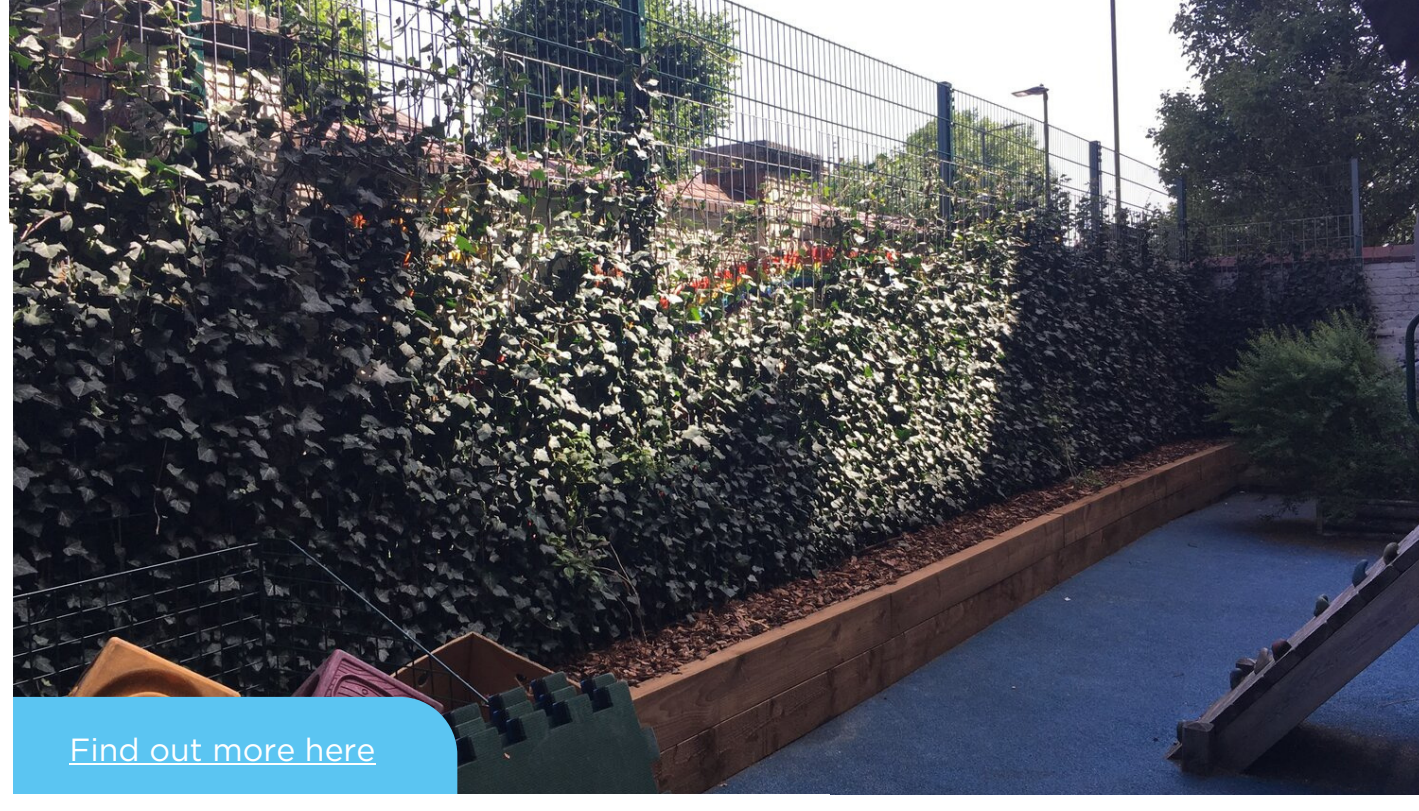
[Find out more here](#)

Following the publication of [Cross River Partnership's Healthy Streets Everyday \(HSE\)](#) Greening Guidance, 'Greening out the Grey: The value of Green Infrastructure for People and Places', the HSE Programme has helped fund several green infrastructure projects across London.

Green infrastructure is a catch-all term to describe the network of natural and semi-natural features within and between our villages, towns and cities. These features range in scale, from street trees, green roofs and private gardens, through to parks, rivers and woodlands. Green infrastructure can contribute to healthier, more pleasant streets, whilst also providing significant environmental, social, economic, and cultural benefits.

One green infrastructure project that was associated with CRP's HSE programme and organised by [London Borough of Hackney](#) was the installation of an ivy green screen at Queensbridge Primary School in the London Borough of Hackney. The green screen helps to reduce pupils' exposure to air pollution by acting as a barrier between harmful pollutants from the surrounding roads. This is because plants are able to capture toxins, gases, aerosols and particulate matter (including dust particles), helping to improve air quality at a local level.

For example, one study estimates that 1 m<sup>2</sup> of living wall extracts 2.3 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per year and produces 1.7 kg of oxygen, while other studies show that plants and microbes found in their soil absorb harmful chemicals from the air and convert them into compounds which the plants feed on.



Picture credit: [Meristem Design](#)

Another greening initiative that CRP's HSE programme helped fund was the installation of a parklet at St Clement Danes Primary School in Westminster City Council. The parklet sits in a footway extension increasing pedestrian space and providing additional green infrastructure for the public realm.

The parklet at St Clement Danes Primary School provides attractive new greenery and flowers for the street, helping to improve biodiversity in the local area, and make the area feel more pleasant. It also forms part of Westminster City Council's plan to create greener and safer environments around schools for the benefit of children and parents.



[Find out more here](#)

## What are the benefits of Greening?



Reduced pollution



Increased biodiversity



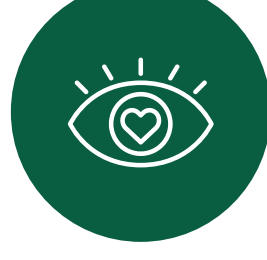
Flood resilience



Cooling abilities



Improved health and wellbeing



Visually pleasing



Adds economic value

## 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.

