

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Natural Environment Board	Dated: 6 February 2025
Subject: City Gardens Update	Public report: For Information
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes 	Diverse Engaged Communities Leading Sustainable Environment Vibrant Thriving Destination Providing Excellent Services Flourishing Public Spaces
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of:	Katie Stewart Executive Director Environment
Report author:	Jake Tibbetts City Gardens Manager

Summary

This report provides an update to Members of the Natural Environment Boards on current management and operational activities across the City Gardens section.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

Main Report

Personnel

1. One of the existing gardeners has been recruited into the new Team Leader role, the Gardeners post that they have vacated will be recruited to shortly.

Operational Activities

2. **Friends of City Gardens:** The FoCG are continuing to deliver the rewilding works at Bunhill Fields, the new pollinator bed and hedging that they have planted are thriving. A section of the main lawn is to be reseeded with a wildflower and wild grass mix. They will also be holding a Moss and Lichen Event in February and another open morning on the 23rd March where there will be talks, tours and a tree walk given by the City Gardens Manager.
3. **Corporate Volunteering** – A programme of events has now been agreed with “Leaves Breath” who will deliver the days. This is being done on a two-year trial basis and we will feed back to Natural Environment Board after the trial.
4. **Filming** – City Gardens with the aid of the film team accommodated a filming shoot at Bunhill Fields that generated 25k of income for City Gardens and 6k for the Friends of City Gardens as the shoot impacted on an area that they maintain, which will be reinvested into Bunhill Fields.

Project Updates

5. The following section provides an overview of the current projects being undertaken by City Gardens. These projects aim to enhance and introduce green infrastructure within the city, improve biodiversity, and create more sustainable urban environments. Each project is at various stages of completion and involves collaboration with different stakeholders to ensure successful delivery.
6. Current projects City Gardens are working on that are due to be delivered by the next NEB - To be accompanied by a presentation
 - Finsbury Circus – Planting is well underway with all trees now in the ground. All corten steel planters and stone benches have been installed. Remaining works include installing fencing around the yard area, completing the clay render and M&E fit of the office building, reinstalling two wall openings, and final planting. Open to the public now planned for mid April.
 - Finsbury Circus Western Arm anticipated planting and completion – February 2025
 - Little Trinity - planting and completion – March 2025

- Jubilee Gardens – planting has now been completed, there are some snagging works that need to be completed before the site is opened to the public in February.
- St Brides – Pruning and clearing works completed planting programmed in for March to be carried out with Mace.
- St Olaves Silver Street – Tree planting has been carried out, planting to be carried out in March.
- St Mary Staining was planted up in January
- Nicolas Cole Abbey was planted up in January
- St Anne St Agnes to be planted up in March
- Nicolas Cole Abbey - the two planters on Queen Victoria street are being rebuilt and a new tree planted.
- City Gardens tree planting programme in addition to the trees included in projects, City Gardens are planting 43 trees, 32 in the Highway, 8 in City Gardens and 3 in the Barbican.

7. **Projects to be delivered during 2025**

- Tower Hill Playground – see separate report presented to committee.
- Moorgate London Wall – a redesign of the area around the oldest Oak tree in the Square Mile, works have now started, trees to be planted by end of March but project will not be completed until later in the year.
- King William and Leadenhall Street, significant pavement widening works being carried out with new avenues of trees being established in each site. Winter 25/26
- Buss Gate Cheapside, new in ground planting beds and seating either side of Cheapside at junction of wood street. Winter 25/26
- Bow Churchyard – two new planters with trees, seating and underplanting. Winter 25/26
- St Peters Churchyard Westcheap – Planting and new paving design around the historic Plane tree – 2025/26
- St Andrews Undershaft– New design of Churchyard 2025/26
- Riverside – rear of St Magnus the Martyr Church, a climate resilient scheme similar to the one outside of the boys' school will be delivered before during 2025.
- Sustainable Urban Drainage schemes at Lloyds Avenue, Ludgate Broadway, Knightrider Court and St Andrews Hill to be delivered in 2025

8. **The London Urban Forest Partnership** is a network of organisations that collaborate to protect, manage and enhance the capital's trees and woodlands of which City of London are a member. The partnership is updating the Urban Forest Plan and City Gardens will be focusing on helping to develop tree species recommendations for London's current and future climate and increasing literacy in planting and establishment good practices enabling street trees to perform better at reducing climate risks, including extreme heat and flooding.

9. **Clean City awards** – The award for City Gardener of the Year will be awarded at the ceremony on the 13th February

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