

Space to *grow*: realising the potential of the community gardening movement

A report by the Royal Horticultural Society
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We're the UK's gardening charity, helping people and plants to grow.

Our mission is to be there on people's lifelong journey with gardening – to bring happiness, health, stronger communities and a thriving natural world.

With 220 years of experience, we support gardeners of all ages with expert advice, community and schools projects, scientific research, professional qualifications, our five RHS Gardens, and events including the iconic RHS Chelsea Flower Show.



Foreword

By Clare Matterson

Community gardening is one of the most quietly powerful movements in the UK today. It brings people together, lifts spirits, improves health, and turns forgotten corners into places bursting with life. At the RHS, we've always believed in the value of gardening – but Space to Grow marks a new chapter. It's the first time we've mapped the scale, impact, and needs of the UK's community gardening groups in such depth, and the results are both inspiring and eye-opening.

I've seen the magic of community gardening firsthand. In my own community garden, I've watched a child plant their first onion with wide-eyed wonder, neighbours find friendship over a shared compost heap, and a once-neglected patch of land become a place of pride and purpose. These spaces do so much more than grow plants – they grow connection, resilience, and hope.

The numbers speak volumes. Over 2.5 million adults have taken part in community gardening in the past three years, and 14.7 million more say they'd love to get involved. Volunteer numbers are rising, and the energy is palpable. But alongside this momentum, there are real challenges. Many groups are worried about their future – facing hurdles like limited funding, insecure access to land, and the need for more support and skills.

That's why this report matters. Space to Grow doesn't just celebrate what's already happening – it lays out clear, practical recommendations to help community gardening thrive. From better funding and infrastructure to stronger networks and advocacy, the report shows what's needed to unlock the full potential of this movement.

Whether it's a youth club growing flowers for a care home, or neighbours turning a lawn into a kitchen garden, these shared green spaces are helping us tackle some of the biggest issues of our time – loneliness, climate change, biodiversity loss. And they're doing it with joy, creativity, and community spirit.

The RHS is proud to stand alongside the thousands of volunteers, organisers, and growers who make this movement what it is. We're committed to helping it grow – and we invite you to join us. Imagine every unloved corner blooming with sunflowers for pollinators, herbs for commuters and tomatoes for our children.

Together, we can grow something extraordinary.



Clare Matterson CBE

Director General, Royal Horticultural Society



Clare Matterson with fellow volunteers at Wild About Campsea, Clare's local community garden in East Suffolk. Clare is a regular volunteer at the garden.

Executive summary

Introduction

Society is facing multiple, interconnected crises around health and wellbeing, climate change, declining nature and biodiversity, food insecurity and economic instability. Powerful solutions to many of these challenges can be found in community action, including community growing and gardening. Research shows that community gardening has a key role in improving health and wellbeing, unifying communities and bringing food growing, nature and biodiversity back to our doorsteps. Community gardening matters, but the community gardening movement needs a broader support framework, investment and stronger infrastructure to realise its potential.

In early 2025, the RHS set out to understand the scale, impact and needs of the UK's diverse community gardening groups by launching the National Community Gardening Survey – the largest of its kind. The survey set out to audit the status of community gardening groups, explore their challenges, understand their motivations and hear in their own words what support they want to see from the RHS, other organisations supporting community gardening groups and government. The RHS defines a community gardening group as any group that comes together around gardening, or gardens together, outside private and commercial gardens. This could be Britain in Bloom groups maintaining planters in their local high street, a community-run orchard in the local park, groups of residents gardening together in a shared space on a housing development, or those looking after spaces in schools, places of worship and hospitals. This report therefore covers both groups whose primary purpose is community gardening (**65% of groups**) and those for whom gardening is one of several activities or services they offer (**35%**). Unless otherwise stated, findings refer to both types of groups collectively.

At the same time, the RHS' Sustainable Gardening Survey quantified the scale of both the existing community gardening movement and the potential for growth, with powerful results: an estimated 2.5 million adults have gardened in their communities in the past three years, and 14.7 million adults say they are interested in joining community gardening initiatives.¹

Together, these research projects tell a compelling story of ambition, impact and growth potential. In all parts of the UK, community gardening groups are transforming their communities' health, wellbeing and environment with huge passion and commitment. Many of these groups are expanding and are ambitious to do more to benefit their neighbourhoods. There is also an appetite for working together on a national level to develop the community gardening movement. However, while community gardening groups have big ambitions, they also face big challenges and significant barriers to unlocking their growth potential – particularly around accessing funding, volunteer capacity, administrative support and governance skills. To truly thrive, they need a more cohesive and visible presence on the national stage.

This report sets out why community gardening matters and considers how the RHS, other organisations supporting community gardening, national governments and local authorities can work together to realise the potential of the community gardening movement.

Conclusions and call to action

Community gardeners are transforming thousands of forgotten spaces into flourishing hubs of activity; whether in schools, parks, youth clubs, hospitals or care homes, shared growing spaces are bringing diverse communities together across the UK. However, despite their immense impact – and the millions of people who are already community gardeners or would like to be – many community gardens face an uncertain future. More than half of community gardening groups are fearful for their long-term viability, with one in four surviving on budgets below £500 per year.² Groups are stretching every penny through upcycling, recycling and sheer determination; but without secure funding and land access, many of these spaces risk disappearing, taking with them the vital services they generate for people, places and planet.

The RHS' research shows that community gardeners are very ambitious about making a meaningful impact and demonstrate remarkable creativity and resilience, achieving a lot with very little resource; and the growth opportunity is huge, with 14.7 million adults interested in joining community gardening initiatives.³ However, if the full potential of the community gardening movement is to be realised, organisations such as the RHS, governments and local authorities need to work together to deliver a broader support framework, investment and stronger infrastructure. Together we can grow a greener, more connected future.

Summary of recommendations

Recommendations for organisations supporting community gardening groups

- 1** Organisations with a national and/or regional role in community gardening should collaborate more closely, create joint advocacy campaigns and develop shared strategies for representing the voices and concerns of the community gardening movement to governments and funders across the UK.
- 2** Organisations with a national and/or regional role in community gardening should work collaboratively to facilitate more networking and skills-sharing opportunities, with a view to supporting community gardeners to strengthen their skills in creating the green change they want to see in their local areas.

Recommendations for national governments across the UK

- 3** The UK government and the governments of the devolved nations should find legislative and policy opportunities to take the Space to Grow campaign forward, by embedding community gardens into national planning policy as infrastructure of strategic importance.
- 4** The UK government and the governments of the devolved nations should consult and engage with the community gardening sector to ensure community gardening is integrated into policy areas and strategies where it can play a key role in supporting the delivery of government priorities. Ideas for a UK Government Office for Green Spaces should be developed and taken forward.
- 5** Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency should formally acknowledge the role that gardening – and particularly community gardening – plays in nature recovery, and set out how they will support community gardeners' work to tackle the nature crisis.

Recommendations for local government

- 6** Local authorities should consider how creating a local strategy for community gardening or incorporating community gardening into existing strategies (such as Spatial Development Strategies) could help them deliver on their policy priorities for local residents.
- 7** Local authorities should consider how they could deliver on their policy priorities by adopting Right to Grow.

Recommendations for funders

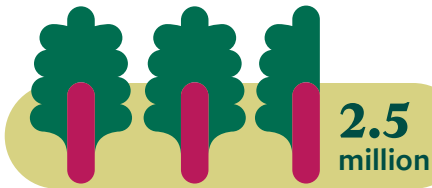
- 8** Funders supporting green infrastructure should review their grant opportunities in light of the findings of this report. Many community gardens are not registered charities and as such may be ineligible for many sources of funding under current restrictive criteria; larger organisations and infrastructure networks are often in urgent need of sustainable revenue funding as well as capital opportunities; and all community gardening groups need to see lighter touch application processes and reporting expectations from funders.



The RHS, other organisations supporting community growing and government – both national and local – need to raise our collective ambitions in this space. How can we better work together to support the community gardening movement to grow and fulfil its potential for people, places and planet?

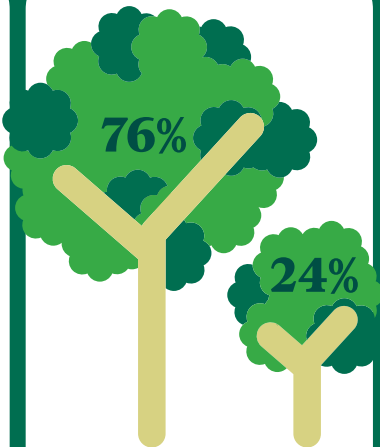
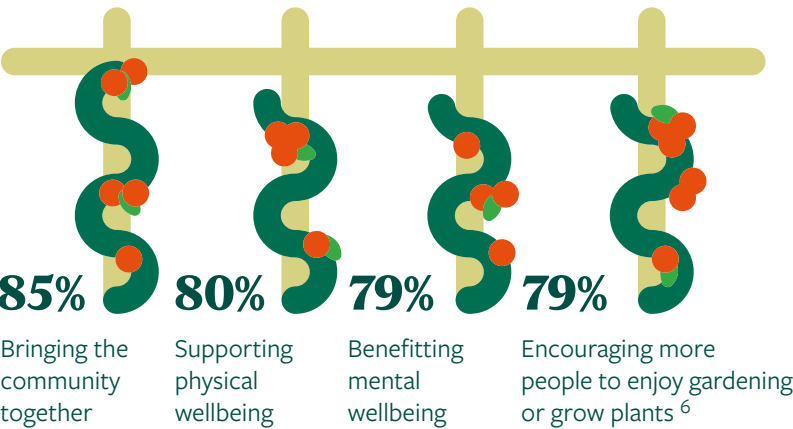
Key statistics

An estimated **2.5 million** adults have gardened in their communities in the past three years.⁴



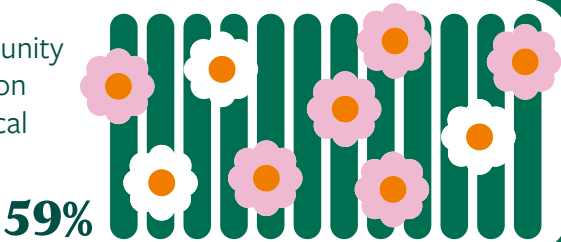
14.7 million adults are interested in joining community gardening initiatives.⁵

The top motivations for community gardening groups were:



76% of community gardens are in urban areas, **24%** in rural areas.⁷

Over half of community gardens are based on land owned by a local authority.⁸



30% of groups whose primary purpose is community gardening operate on under £500 per year.¹¹

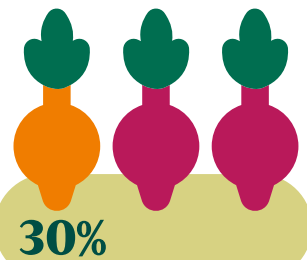
47%

Community gardening is growing – nearly half of groups are reporting increases in volunteer numbers.⁹

This infographic features a large green 'E' shape. To the left of the 'E' is the text '47%'. Below the 'E' is a row of ten horizontal green bars. The first five bars are white with a pink flower on top, and the last five are solid green.



More than half of community gardening groups are worried about their future.¹⁰





The scale and impact of community gardening in the UK

Across the length and breadth of the UK, in our urban centres, towns, villages and countryside alike, millions of people are coming together, taking up their trowels and setting about transforming their communities. Whether motivated by a desire for community connection, a passion for planet-friendly gardening, growing food to share with neighbours or beautifying public spaces, community gardeners are taking the initiative and transforming thousands of forgotten patches of land into flourishing hubs for people and planet.

Community gardening in the UK has grown and evolved over time, with initiatives such as Britain in Bloom – which celebrated 60 years in 2024 – playing a significant role in its development. Today's vibrant and diverse community gardening movement is connecting people of all ages and backgrounds with nature on their doorsteps; whether based at community centres, on high streets, at youth clubs or in housing estates, community gardens are uniting neighbours across the UK and generating multiple benefits for individuals and society.

The community gardening movement in the UK: an overview

The scale of community gardening in the UK

This report marks the first time the scale and growth trajectory of the UK's community gardening movement has been mapped. Over 2.5 million UK adults are estimated to have taken part in community gardening over the last three years, and an estimated 1.5 million adults say they are currently gardening in their communities as part of an organised group.¹² Nearly half (47%) of community gardening groups reported an increase in volunteer numbers over the last year.¹³

This research tells a story of untapped potential to grow the community gardening movement further, with 14.7 million adults saying they are interested in joining community gardening initiatives.¹⁴

Community gardening groups come in all shapes and sizes: 34% categorised themselves as community gardens; 12% allotments with community areas; 12% community gardens within parks; 6% school gardens; and others were shared containers on the street, shared spaces in housing developments and health centre gardens.¹⁵

What are community gardens growing?¹⁶

69% are growing flowers



61% are growing vegetables



35% are growing fruit trees



35% are growing herbs



33% are growing fruit



23% are growing other trees



Where are community gardens and who owns the land?

The majority (76%) of community gardens are located in urban areas, with 24% located in rural areas. 35% of groups garden on more than one site in their community, and for those that are multi-site the average number of sites is five. 60% of community gardening sites are accessible by the public at all times.¹⁷

Just 3% of community gardens own their own sites, meaning the large majority rely on leases and partnership arrangements. Over half (56%) of community gardens are based on land owned by a local authority, making local government a key partner and stakeholder in the community gardening movement.¹⁸

Private landowners are also important partners, with 10% of community gardens located on privately owned land; and public institutions such as the NHS, schools and railways also play a role, with 10% of community gardens located on their land.¹⁹

How are community gardening groups structured?

Community gardening groups represent a range of management and governance structures, including fully volunteer-led groups, organisations with a small staff team, and larger infrastructure organisations – some of which act as networks of support for smaller groups. It is notable that for those groups whose primary purpose was community gardening, just 14% are registered charities. Other forms of organisational structure (41%) include affiliation with another charity, CIC and Residents' Associations. Around 30% of groups don't have a bank account, public liability insurance or any organisational policies – highlighting how informal some of these groups are in their operations.²⁰

These informal structures help to keep the administrative burden low; however, operating outside the well-established UK charity infrastructure means most groups are excluded from applying for many funding opportunities and are not eligible for Gift Aid and other forms of tax relief. They may also find it more difficult to establish partnerships and participate in local authority and national government consultations.

What are the motivations for community gardeners?

The vast majority of community gardens say they exist to bring their community together (85%), benefit participants' physical (80%) and mental (79%) wellbeing, and encourage enjoyment of gardening (79%). Improving biodiversity and wildlife habitats (76%) and creating cleaner, greener or more attractive surroundings (71%) were also important motivations for many community gardeners.²¹ Gaining recognition was



Why community gardening matters for people, places and planet: a snapshot

This vibrant network of over a million community-minded gardeners is generating multiple benefits for people, places and planet, particularly in policy areas that have long been priorities for government: improving people's health and wellbeing, place-based community cohesion, increasing access to nature, and delivering on environmental targets, such as increased biodiversity.

The body of research pointing to the benefits and impacts of community gardening continues to grow; this snapshot provides just a brief overview of why community gardening matters.

comparatively a low motivating factor for community gardens, with only 16% citing they are highly motivated by gaining recognition.²²

What organisations and networks are community gardens working with?

Many community gardens engage with local authorities (47%), early years settings or primary schools (42%), charities (32%) and local businesses (30%). Groups also engage with local plant nurseries or garden centres (27%), other local horticultural groups (26%), youth groups (25%), secondary schools (21%) and medical providers such as GP surgeries (20%).²³

Again, local authorities were found to be a crucial stakeholder as for many groups they offer more than financial aid, frequently providing practical support such as supplying compost, plants and woodchip and helping with maintenance tasks. Many groups said they were able to use council land at low or no cost. Councils also act as facilitators, sharing funding opportunities, advising on grants and coordinating across departments. Local authority staff offer expertise on management, biodiversity and safety. Local councillors often also support projects through site visits and discretionary budgets. Additional help from local authorities included administration support, training, publicity and networking.

Many community gardening groups said they were keen to work more closely with other local organisations and networks in the future, including local plant nurseries or garden centres (31%), horticultural colleges (27%), medical providers (25%), other local horticultural groups (24%), secondary schools (23%) and youth groups (23%).²⁴

“People use the group as a place to get things off their chest and decompress.”

• Community connections and accessibility

Community gardens do more than grow plants – they grow pride, purpose and connection. Community gardening groups empower people with new skills, and serve as a space for cultural exchange, intergenerational learning and friendship.²⁵ They offer a welcoming environment for people to begin their gardening journey, or simply to belong.

Community gardening groups' primary purpose is to bring people together, with over half saying they aim to address social isolation.²⁶ Many of the people we spoke to were most proud of the ways in which their groups have engaged isolated residents, created intergenerational activities, built supportive networks and provided a welcoming space for connection. This is particularly important in 2025, with recent research showing that half of Britons feel disconnected from the society around them.²⁷ Nearly nine in ten (88%) young adults aged from 18 to 24 say they experience loneliness to some degree²⁸ and nearly one million older people in the UK say they are “often” lonely.²⁹

A growing body of evidence shows that community growing can help address this social isolation. For example, the RHS' data suggested that community gardeners viewed the impact of gardening on social health 17% more positively than gardeners who don't take part in community gardening.³⁰ A key facet of community cohesion is ensuring that community gardens are as inclusive as possible and community gardening groups are working on addressing this in various ways. 67% of community gardens have installed accessible paths, and over half (51%) have raised beds for wheelchair users and those with different

“We just finished setting up accessible planters to enable people to garden without needing to kneel or get down on the floor. It’s exciting, we’ve been working towards this for a while.”

mobility needs. A third (33%) said they hoped to provide accessible paths and tools to make gardening easier for everyone within the next two years.³¹

This desire to work on inclusion also translates into engaging diverse volunteer groups. 39% of community gardening groups said they pro-actively aim to recruit volunteers from culturally diverse groups and networks; 37% were reaching out to young people and youth organisations and 34% were engaged with organisations representing older people.³²

• Place-making and safety

By transforming shared spaces, community gardens foster a stronger sense of place – making neighbourhoods greener and often safer. In recent years, multiple studies have found that greater amounts of good quality green space are associated with lower crime rates in urban areas; for example, 2022 research that analysed data from 301 large cities in the USA concluded that more green space was associated with lower incidences of violent crime and property theft.³³ A 2020 research project done by Cornell University looked across several studies and concluded that well-maintained green space has the potential to reduce violent crime, whilst making communities safer and residents healthier.³⁴ A 2018 study focused on Glasgow found community gardens create inclusive, empowering spaces where disadvantaged groups can connect with nature and each other – fostering dignity, resilience and a shared sense of place amid social and economic challenges.³⁵

• Health and wellbeing

The UK is facing a growing health and wellbeing crisis exacerbated by a lack of access to nature and green spaces.³⁶ Many people – particularly within underserved or marginalised communities – are disconnected from the natural world (UK adults rank 59th out of 65 countries in terms of feeling connected to nature³⁷), which contributes to rising levels of physical inactivity, obesity and poor mental health. A 2024 study found that in England’s most deprived neighbourhoods, a 1% increase in grassland area was associated with a 37% reduction in annual preventable deaths.³⁸



In the context of immense strain on our NHS, coupled with the high priority placed on improving public health by government – particularly through preventative and local approaches³⁹ – evidence increasingly points to the value of investing in public green spaces, such as community gardens, to deliver measurable health and wellbeing outcomes.⁴⁰

For the one in eight (12%) British households⁴¹ who have no garden at home, these community spaces are essential for accessing the health and wellbeing benefits of the natural world. Ensuring equitable access to nature through community growing spaces is a matter of social justice, given that Black people in England are nearly four times more likely than White people to lack private outdoor space at home (37% compared to 10%).⁴²

• Tackling the nature and climate crises

Community gardening groups excel at environmental stewardship, often transforming neglected spaces into vibrant habitats for wildlife through sustainable practices. The RHS’ new research shows that community gardeners are more likely than gardeners who don’t take part in community gardening to feel concerned about environmental problems because of the consequences for nature, themselves and other people.⁴³ Studies also show that community gardens are among the most biodiverse urban habitats.⁴⁴ »

“This is my safe space among the plants.”

Cranhill Development Trust: Sowing the seeds of a brighter future for Glasgow communities

Cranhill Development Trust (CDT) is a Scottish charity based in northeast Glasgow with programmes ranging from employability support to wellbeing activities. CDT is an important community anchor and supports around 3,000 people each year, responding to complex issues including poverty and social exclusion and contributing to the regeneration of Cranhill, an area that has seen decades of economic hardship. CDT is funded by Glasgow City Council and supported by partners including the RHS, Wheatley Foundation and Police Scotland.

Fiona Duncan, Health and Wellbeing Lead, looks after the Trust's food-based projects – including the Cranhill Community Garden, which has become a lifeline for the community. The garden is a nature haven in an urban oasis, with colourful raised beds surrounded by three large blocks of flats. Together, the community grow and nurture a range of soft fruits including blueberries, raspberries and tayberries. A polycrumb is brimming with tomatoes and basil, whilst outside they have an abundance of leeks, cabbage, kale and carrots. Sunflowers and wildflowers support local pollinators.

The garden brings people together, regardless of whether they are interested in gardening or just fancy a cup of tea and a chat in a judgement-free zone. People of all ages and backgrounds – including people seeking asylum and those in temporary accommodation – work together, helping break down barriers. The garden is not only welcoming and inclusive but also accessible – visible from flat windows and when residents are passing through to reach the bus stop.

Neighbours who had never met each other have formed close friendships thanks to the gardening workshops. Despite being new to gardening, local resident Frank quickly recognised it as a way to meet people. “There are nice people here, so I’ve been coming every week for over a year, and we use the food we grow at cooking club.” Another participant added, “The garden is somewhere to come where you leave your troubles by the pavement.”

The space continues to grow, with plans to transform a disused football pitch into a bigger garden which has been co-designed by the community. Yet challenges remain. Limited indoor space restricts winter growing, and volunteers need support to learn how to cultivate different plants. To adjust to climate change, the group are increasing their rainwater harvesting capacity, introducing a composting system and adjusting their planting calendar.

Cranhill's story shows how community gardening fosters social cohesion, improves health and builds resilience. With improved support, groups like Cranhill could do even more.

Case study



Cranhill Community Garden growers

“You see people at their lowest, but you also see them grow stronger. When they have their hands in the soil, their worries disappear, and they are learning a new skill which will help them and those around them.”

– Angela Smith, RHS Community Outreach Advisor

As such, community gardens have a crucial role in supporting wildlife and the planet, with year-round flowering plants acting as vital corridors for pollinators – particularly in urban areas where green space is limited.

A significant achievement noted by many groups was their dedication to enhancing the environment and promoting biodiversity – including working to improve soil health, create habitats for wildlife and embed sustainable gardening practices; 41% of community gardens have a pond, 78% are composting, 59% are collecting rainwater and 74% are avoiding peat.⁴⁵

Doing more to enhance biodiversity was identified as a key aspiration for many community gardening groups, with numerous examples pointing to a desire for features like ponds, bee sanctuaries or more areas for wildlife.⁴⁶

Community gardening holds a crucial role in community-led climate action, and can be a gateway to further environmental action.⁴⁷ It connects environmental sustainability with everyday life and deepens emotional connections to nature. Community gardens can also support climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience.⁴⁸

Consequently, community gardens have significant potential to help deliver on government’s goals for the environment and urban greening – including the key commitment in the UK Government’s Environmental Improvement Plan that “everyone should live within 15 minutes’ walk of a green or blue space”. Earlier this year, the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) reported that government is “largely off track” when it comes to achieving seven of the goal areas set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan, including the apex goal of ‘achieving thriving plants and wildlife’.⁴⁹ Supporting community gardeners to expand their growing spaces can be a powerful part of the solution to the nature crisis and climate emergency.

• Education and skills development

Community gardeners are actively sharing their knowledge and expertise to empower others. This includes teaching children about where their food comes from, running workshops on composting and sustainable gardening and providing opportunities for individuals to learn new skills.⁵⁰ This engages a wide range of age groups – from infants through to older adults – and underscores a commitment to lifelong learning and fostering a deeper connection with nature across the community.



This snapshot of the impacts and benefits of community gardening for people, places and planet maps against successive UK-wide and devolved government priorities around health and wellbeing, social cohesion, urban greening, biodiversity and sustainability; clearly, community gardeners and community gardens can play a key role in making progress towards addressing some of these priority policy areas. However, substantial challenges to progress remain.



The challenges facing community gardening

Community gardeners aim for sustainability and longevity – focusing on increasing volunteer involvement, securing adequate space, funding and resources and further enhancing biodiversity and environmental benefits. They aspire to increase their impact in their communities, and many wish to expand their infrastructure and improve accessibility; but these ambitions are often constrained by the challenges set out below.

Despite the immense value of what they do, many community growing spaces face an uncertain future; 56% of community gardening groups said they are worried about their group's survival.⁵¹ Accessing funding and finding people with the skills to apply for funding remain perennial issues, and attracting and retaining enough volunteers is a significant challenge for many groups. Community gardening groups need support to remain sustainable in challenging times, with larger groups who have invested in paid staff and social impact feeling most under pressure.⁵²

Funding

Access to appropriate funding remains a significant hurdle, with many groups expressing particular frustration over the impact of council cuts and funders' focus on start-up grants rather than ongoing maintenance and staffing costs.⁵³

Almost a third (28%) of community gardening groups – this rises to 30% for groups whose primary purpose is community gardening – operate on a budget of less than £500 per year. This was even higher among groups that said they were not part of any wider networks – of which 33% reported an income of less than £500 per year. Primary purpose community gardening groups with paid staff, who offer therapeutic horticulture – 7% of total groups – were significantly more likely to report incomes over £20,000. Despite this, they were the subset most concerned about their long-term survival.⁵⁴ Larger community gardening organisations with paid staff capacity were particularly concerned about a lack of sustainable sources of revenue funding to enable them to keep going; some were at risk of losing their staff and imminent closure if reliable revenue funding couldn't be found.

“It's hard to find where the funding opportunities are. We don't have lots of access or understanding about where to go for these things.”



Despite these challenges, community gardens are being creative in their fundraising endeavours and raising money in various ways – including through grants and trusts (53%), fundraising events (48%) and a significant number of groups report receiving direct financial assistance from local authorities (36%).⁵⁵

When it comes to ongoing funding challenges, 24% of groups stated that they did not know where to find appropriate funding opportunities. Finding volunteers with the time and skills to support funding applications was also a key barrier to groups' development. Groups reported a clear desire for more accessible and flexible funding streams, as well as better support and guidance in terms of finding and accessing them.⁵⁶ Overly burdensome application administration and complex reporting protocols that seemed disproportionate to grant levels were also raised as key barriers to funding.

Staff and volunteer capacity

The majority (74%) of community gardening groups do not have any paid staff. For those groups whose primary purpose is community gardening this rises to 82% – they exist solely thanks to the passion, commitment and hard work of volunteers.⁵⁷

The mean number of regular volunteers was 16 across the community gardening groups surveyed. Encouragingly, nearly half (47%) of groups reported an increase in volunteer numbers over the last year – demonstrating a continued interest in community gardening across the UK.⁵⁸

However, many reported problems finding volunteers with the time and skills the group needed. A recurring theme was the difficulty in securing consistent leadership and administrative capacity, often leading to a concentration of responsibility on a few individuals. Administrative tasks in particular (on average, groups have four people willing to undertake administrative work) were highlighted as an issue – such as finding

and applying for funding opportunities, liaising with the council and local businesses, publicising the work of the group and organising events. This is compounded by a lack of social media and marketing skills to raise awareness and engage new participants. Without such capacity available, many community gardening groups are prevented from expanding their activities and outreach; and ultimately from fulfilling their full potential for their local community.⁵⁹

Groups with paid staff highlighted the lack of opportunities for developing a viable career in the community gardening sector; jobs were few and far between, salaries were often incompatible with living expenses, and progression pathways were limited. Many groups felt strongly that the professional community gardener route needed to be better valued by funders and better supported by the sector to become a more viable career option, especially for young people joining the workforce.

Finally, the transient nature of communities in some areas presents a challenge to building long-term engagement and volunteer continuity; and many groups highlighted the challenges of an ageing volunteer base and the difficulty in attracting younger generations, leading to an unsustainable reliance on a handful of individuals.⁶⁰

Equitable access to long-term space to grow

Many urban areas suffer from poor-quality shared green spaces, and land is often underutilised, vacant, inequitably accessible or poorly managed – meaning opportunities for equitable community growing are far from maximised. Where productive land is utilised, this is often uncoordinated and complex.

Many community gardening groups report challenges in accessing land, as well as, but to a lesser degree, accessing other resources such as storage and tools. Bureaucracy, communication with local authorities and council restrictions (for example ponds and beehives not being allowed) are frequently highlighted as major impediments to growth. Similarly, managing relationships with landlords or parent charities is a source of frustration, with some groups experiencing a lack of support or unclear agreements that impact their ability to secure funding or long-term security.⁶¹

Minority ethnic led groups and organisations face particular barriers in accessing land, and projects such as *Rootz into Food Growing* (a collaborative project between The Ubele Initiative, Black Rootz, OrganicLea and Land In Our Names) and *Jumping Fences: Land, food and racial justice in British farming* (a collaborative research project between Land in Our Names, »

Tidy Randalstown: Growing community through gardening and volunteering

Britain in Bloom group Tidy Randalstown, located in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, was founded 13 years ago to tidy up the town. Today, the 25-strong team of regular volunteers devote time each week to maintaining six community gardens and other environmental projects across the town. In their distinctive hi-vis vests they are a magnet for passersby, who often stop and ask about their gardens.

“It was tough in the early days, there was a lack of care for the town and community spirit was low. We had a slow start, litter picking and using plants to provide colour and hope. We tried to make sure we were visible – and people’s curiosity grew,” explains Helen Boyd, Tidy Randalstown Chair and co-founder.

Attracting and retaining volunteers is a challenge for many community gardening groups; however, Tidy Randalstown rarely has to ask people directly to volunteer. Instead, they are approached when people see them out working. “As well as developing skills and confidence, we are committed to retaining the loyalty of volunteers so that they feel truly valued. We get to know their needs and interests. We also seek to nurture lasting friendships to ensure support through good times and bad,” says Helen.

All new volunteers receive a welcome pack and are partnered with an experienced buddy. Staying in touch is made easy via a WhatsApp group. Opportunities for involvement in specific projects – such as the transformation of a local viaduct into a thriving community garden – are rotated. And it’s not all work; there is always a break for ‘coffee, craic and cake’, enabling volunteers to enjoy the social benefits of gardening with others, and successes are celebrated at events such as barbecues and Christmas parties. “You can feel the connection,” adds Helen. “We have a common purpose that unites a group of very different people from all walks of life.”

The wealth of skills and experience volunteers bring, from writing grant submissions or woodworking, has enabled a wide range of projects. Working alongside local schools, the community police and the local council, Tidy Randalstown has proven itself to be a powerful force for good. “People see the change visually and feel it in the community,” concludes Helen. “They want to be part of it and take ownership. The satisfaction this brings is very special.”

The group has received multiple awards over the years, including Overall Winner at Ireland’s Best Kept Town, twice, and being crowned category winner at the Britain in Bloom finals in 2017 and 2022.

Tidy Randalstown’s guiding principles

- 1 Projects come from a need
 - 2 Look for funding
 - 3 Set achievable targets. Set ourselves up to succeed
 - 4 Always celebrate when we’ve completed a project
 - 5 Sustain the outcomes
-



Randalstown’s Viaduct Community Garden

In 2022, a former railway viaduct in Randalstown became Northern Ireland’s answer to New York’s ‘The High Line’. The awe-inspiring Elevation Garden was designed by Johnny Knox and funded by the RHS. Today, this transformed space in the air is a flourishing community garden that brings joy to the whole community, ‘the jewel in a necklace of gardens in Randalstown’.

Photography: Linda Houston

the Ecological Land Cooperative and The Landworkers' Alliance) have looked in detail at these barriers and potential solutions. Such persistent inequity limits individuals, groups, communities and society, as well as hindering the full potential of the community gardening movement.

Without targeted efforts to make accessing underused land simpler and more equitable, communities risk becoming more disconnected, unhealthy and environmentally unsustainable; but political engagement and policies supporting urban greening remain fragmented. With government targets to build 1.5 million new homes over the next five years, and up to 12 new towns anticipated to be under construction by the time of the next General Election, 'greening the grey' from the outset has never been more important.

Many community gardening groups stand ready to expand their work but are constrained by a lack of suitable and long-term land, local authority bureaucracy or unsupportive planning frameworks. Support to secure long-term land tenure was raised as a particular issue.⁶²

Networking and advocacy

Community gardening groups highlighted a need for more networking and peer-to-peer support opportunities. Groups are looking for more chances to connect and share ideas and advice at both a local, regional and national level, including advice on outreach activities, attracting and retaining new volunteers, sustainability and environmental best practice.⁶³

Groups also highlighted a need to harness the collective energy of community gardeners behind a common cause, by amplifying the voices of the community gardening movement at a national level.⁶⁴

Scaling Green Social Prescribing (GSP) and therapeutic horticulture

30% of community gardening groups told the RHS they offer Green Social Prescribing (GSP) or therapeutic horticulture and of these groups 34% identify it as their primary purpose.⁶⁵ Most referrals are self-referrals (59%) but many also come through a link worker (47%) or health professional (43%). More research is needed to understand the work that community gardens are doing in this area.

Interestingly, 56% of the groups who state they offer Green Social Prescribing (GSP) or therapeutic



horticulture have paid staff and a huge 69% are worried about their survival. There are renewed government and NHS efforts to promote neighbourhood-based approaches to preventative care.⁶⁶ This will rely on local green assets and community gardening initiatives being effectively funded to enable them to support government efforts at scale.

As the government advances its commitment to building the infrastructure for social prescribing and integrating it across the NHS⁶⁷, there is a growing need to recognise the unique role that community gardens can play. These spaces offer a tangible, community-based entry point for GSP, providing inclusive, local environments that can support physical activity, mental wellbeing and social connection. However, many groups are not receiving any funding to support their work in this area. Green Social Prescribing is unlikely to be sustainable going forward without resolving this funding gap. For more information see *Sustain's Food growing on prescription* report.⁶⁸

Site-specific issues and practical challenges

For some groups, a lack of basic facilities such as secure storage, accessible toilets or covered spaces significantly limit operational capacity and volunteer comfort. For groups located in public spaces or at railway stations, safety regulations, passenger needs and antisocial behaviour (including drug use, litter and trampling) can create complex constraints on gardening activities and community involvement. The need for better facilities is also clear, with respondents' wish lists including covered spaces or basic amenities like toilet facilities.⁶⁹ Access to water is also a key issue – ranked as the fifth most significant challenge for community gardening groups. 41% do not harvest rainwater and 32% of community gardens do not have access to a water supply.

"I want to share our experience, and hear about others."



Realising the potential of the community gardening movement

The community gardening movement is continuing to grow, and there is an appetite amongst millions of people across the UK to begin gardening in their neighbourhoods. But significant challenges and barriers to progress remain, as we have seen above. This represents a huge opportunity for organisations supporting community gardening groups – including the RHS, partners in allied sectors and national and local government across our four nations – to improve the support we offer to meet the collective ambitions of the UK's community gardens. How can we work together to support and amplify the growing community gardening movement, to further unlock its potential for people, places and planet?

“Communication beyond our own area, and learning from what others are doing. I would like to be able to talk to others doing similar things across the country, learn from them and feel we are all part of something big together.”

Recommendations for organisations supporting community gardening groups

Amplify the voices of the community gardening movement

Creating nationwide change to address the challenges and barriers identified in this report will require working with communities at scale to amplify the collective voices of the community gardening movement. Currently, community gardens across the UK lack a unified voice, limiting their influence and visibility in broader environmental and urban planning discussions – leaving their role within the wider urban greening agenda unclear and poorly integrated. Many community gardening groups who responded to the RHS' survey highlighted the need for greater recognition and integration into public policy, calling for more collaborative efforts and a national campaign to promote their importance and encourage wider participation. Despite their potential to address social and environmental challenges, community gardening is often undervalued by policymakers and broader society.⁷⁰ Without a more unified national voice, their potential is unlikely to be fully understood or supported at a policy level, hindering the ability of community gardens to contribute meaningfully to sustainable urban development and environmental resilience and thus preventing them from reaching their full impact across diverse settings.

There is a significant opportunity to do more to represent the community gardening movement to governments across the UK – local, devolved and UK-wide – with a view to highlighting how community gardening can form part of the solution to delivering on key policy priorities: including equalising access to nature, improving health and wellbeing outcomes, greening urban areas, improving community cohesion and tackling the nature crisis. By coordinating efforts more closely, organisations working in this space could bring together a fragmented system of support for community gardening groups and make it easier for people who are interested in community gardening to get involved. Greater coordination and representation could unlock the transformative power of community gardening and ensure outdoor space within communities across the UK is used to the best effect to support people, places and the planet.

Bolster and facilitate peer-to-peer networks and skills-sharing

There are many thriving networks of community gardening groups across the country that are doing fantastic work at local, regional and sometimes national level. But the RHS' new research has highlighted a need for greater national-level facilitation and peer-to-peer networking opportunities for community gardeners, with a view to bolstering and complementing the vibrant networking and skills-sharing that's already underway.

Recommendation:

Organisations with a national and/or regional role in community gardening should collaborate more closely, create joint advocacy campaigns and develop shared strategies for representing the voices and concerns of the community gardening movement to governments and funders across the UK.

Recommendation:

Organisations with a national and/or regional role in community gardening should work collaboratively to facilitate more networking and skills-sharing opportunities, with a view to supporting community gardeners to strengthen their skills in creating the green change they want to see in their local areas.

Electric Daisy: Bringing the buzz in Derby for people and pollinators

When you think about a community garden, what comes to mind? Is it weeding and watering, or DJ-nights, talks and communal cookery? In the heart of Derby city centre, in what was once a dilapidated supermarket earmarked for development, the Electric Daisy community garden does all of the above, and more. Electric Daisy buzzes with life – for both people and pollinators – with an events programme ranging from ‘veg and vibes’ live music to toddler messy play. They offer a space for all members of the community to connect through food, education and culture, firmly rooted in nature.

“At its core is a collective purpose: bringing people together to reimagine Derby city,” says Jamie Quince-Starkey, the driving force behind Electric Daisy. Jamie continues, “Electric Daisy is a seed for a city-wide transformation – proof that with shared purpose, we can turn forgotten spaces into flourishing hubs.”

Brought to life in collaboration with Derby City Council and a range of local partners – from big businesses such as Rolls Royce to small local companies who provided support pro bono – the garden shows what can be achieved when local authorities, local businesses and cultural organisations work with communities to support their visions to transform urban space. Jamie continues, “In some ways, what we’ve done here feels radical in terms of the breadth of partnerships. But I hope it acts as a showcase for what can be done with council and corporate involvement, and a model others may be able to use. If you have a great idea, talk to the local council and local businesses – to see if you can find local champions to help you take it forward.”

The vision has always been to make Electric Daisy economically sustainable without grant funding, which is now close to a reality: “We’re in our third season, and I think we are on track to be financially sustainable by the autumn,” says Jamie. That’s been achieved through some commercial activity – some of the activities are charged-for – alongside community-focused volunteering days and free events, all with the garden and nature at the heart. “We’ve got to make it economically viable,” says Jamie. “We want to prove this model works”.

Jamie says one of the things he’s most proud of is how the volunteer base at the garden has developed. “We have around 80 core volunteers from across the local community, who come to spend time in the garden on Thursdays or Sundays. It took time to build up those relationships and rapport, but now volunteers are leading and managing what the garden needs. We are lucky to have a diverse group of volunteers who are passionate about greening Derby. We are always looking to get new people involved too.”

Creating that flexible space for people to connect with each other through nature in a way that fits into busy, modern lives is a deeply personal mission for Jamie, as a busy working dad. “I thought about what my family needed, spoke to friends and neighbours about what their families needed, and went from there. I wanted it to be accessible for all and family friendly. Young families need stuff to do in city centres that isn’t just soft play and that allows parents to socialise and talk to each other. It’s crucial to understand how busy people’s lives are right now and create something that helps them connect with nature in a way that works for them; but to do that we have to make it relevant, accessible and fun.”

Case study



Electric Daisy runs regular ‘Grow Bros’ gardening socials, which often end with a group meal in the garden.

Photography: Jamie Quince-Starkey

“...in some ways, what we’ve done here feels radical in terms of the breadth of partnerships. But I hope it acts as a showcase for what can be done with council and corporate involvement, and a model others may be able to use.”

– Jamie Quince-Starkey, Electric Daisy

Recommendations for national governments

Embed community gardens into strategic planning

RHS data shows that many community gardening groups stand ready to expand their work and deliver even greater value for their communities, but they are often constrained by a lack of suitable and long-term land or unsupportive planning frameworks.

In 2025, the RHS worked collaboratively with partner organisations in the sector and Parliamentarians to call on the UK government to address this issue by explicitly recognising (in legislation) community gardens as infrastructure of strategic importance within spatial development strategies.⁷¹ The Space to Grow amendment to the Planning & Infrastructure Bill would ensure that community gardens and allotments are not an optional afterthought but are instead proactively and consistently considered by local authorities in planning decisions that shape the long-term development of neighbourhoods.

Elevating community gardens to the status of strategic infrastructure is essential to send a clear message about their value in delivering health, social and climate outcomes. In turn, a stronger policy footing would help community gardening groups to access land, funding and partnerships to scale their work.

Integrate community gardening into cross-departmental strategies

Community gardening cuts across policy areas in different government departments at a UK level and in the devolved nations – including health and wellbeing, access to nature, biodiversity and climate, food strategy, volunteering, planning and social policy. A growing body of evidence shows community gardening has the power to help deliver government priorities in all of these areas, and consequently it should be integrated into cross-departmental policy and strategies in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. For example, Defra could do more to engage the community gardening sector in the development of the National Food Strategy. We would welcome a cross-government Office for Green Spaces to facilitate this cross-cutting work.

Acknowledge the role community gardening plays in nature recovery

This report has highlighted and added to the large body of research evidencing the positive impacts community gardening can have on nature recovery. The RHS recommends Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot and Northern Ireland Environment Agency formally acknowledge the pivotal role that community growing plays in nature recovery, and set out details of how they plan to support community gardeners and community gardening organisations in their work to tackle the nature crisis.

Recommendation:

The UK government and the governments of the devolved nations should find legislative and policy opportunities to take the Space to Grow campaign forward, by embedding community gardens into national planning policy as infrastructure of strategic importance.

Recommendation:

The UK government and the governments of the devolved nations should consult and engage with the community gardening sector to ensure community gardening is integrated into policy areas and strategies where it can play a key role in supporting the delivery of government priorities. Ideas for a UK Government Office for Green Spaces should be developed and taken forward.

Recommendation:

Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency should formally acknowledge the role that gardening – and particularly community gardening – plays in nature recovery, and set out how they will support community gardeners' work to tackle the nature crisis.

Harnessing the power of community gardening to deliver policy priorities in East Suffolk

If you're heading down Saxmundham High Street on a Monday or Friday morning and happen upon the Queens Head pub car park, you'll notice a buzz around a white canopied market stall – this is Saxmundham Community Fridge. Marion Hedley Lewis started the project in June 2022 after seeing the idea on BBC's Countryfile. The Sax Community Fridge is now well-established and is already saving 12 tonnes of food waste each year from landfill. "It's not a food bank or a social supermarket," she explains. "The fridge is a leveller, it's for everybody; young or old, rich or poor. If you can use the produce or share it, then please come along."

Nominated as a finalist in the Green Category for the BBC Radio Suffolk 2025 'Make a Difference' Awards, the Community Fridge is supplied with fresh produce and seeds grown by community gardeners at Sax Community Allotment, where people of all ages and backgrounds are welcomed to weed and water and to enjoy coffee, homemade cake and a natter. East Suffolk Council, who recognise the difference that community gardening can make to their strategies around health, the economy and the environment, supported Sax Community Allotment with a grant of £2,000 to run a programme of summer events to engage with more local families. "Soaring prices are a challenge for many families," says Andy Jolliffe, Community Partnerships Manager at the Council. "Supporting our community gardens to increase productivity and attract people new to growing is key to helping us deliver on our policy priorities for local communities."

East Suffolk Council's recognition of the importance of community growing in delivering their policy priorities led to the creation of a small grants scheme for community gardens (£14,000 is awarded annually) combined with the 'Field to Fork' initiative, which aims to support 2,000 households (5,000 people) every year to start growing their own food using growing kits. The Council created a 'value calculator' (see right) to calculate the return on investment these schemes have generated, which highlights the growing kits alone generated 7.64 times the value of the investment (£17,000) – an exciting result for any other local authorities looking to replicate similar schemes in their areas.

East Suffolk Council's Top Tips for Local Authorities

- Visit community gardening groups on the ground
- Include residents in rural locations (many do not know how to grow)
- Ensure schemes are central to the LA business plan
- Don't be too prescriptive with your grants – allow for differing needs
- Involve partners to spread the load
- Evolve kit content with the latest sustainability advice
- Demonstrate the value through a value calculator
- Keep in touch by email with new growers, offer tips throughout the seasons

Case study



Saxmundham Community Allotment

Saxmundham 'Sax' Community Allotment used their grant to attract new audiences to the project by running summer open events on the plot, including a community barbecue. The Council-supported events helped them to locate several new families that could benefit from their 'community fridge' which they run twice a week at a local carpark.

Photography: Martin Thorold

Value calculator

Council investment in grants (£14,000) and growing kits (£17,000) in 2024

£31,000

Estimated value of produce grown by residents

£130,000

Return on investment (ROI) for growing kits

x7.64

Estimated carbon dioxide reduction through residents growing their own

28,000 kilos



Recommendations for local government

Create a local strategy for community gardening

Taking a strategic approach to supporting community gardening would help local authorities and regional mayoralities to deliver against their policy priorities for local residents – including improving health and wellbeing, uniting communities, developing a strong sense of place, restoring nature and delivering on climate-related goals.

Some local authorities have recognised the impact supporting community gardening can have in their areas and are already leading the way with their own strategic approaches to supporting local growing. Southwark Council has appointed two Community Gardening Coordinators to support a network of local community gardens; Greater Manchester Combined Authority has invested millions through its Green Spaces Fund, and East Suffolk's 'Field to Fork' scheme is helping communities grow their own food. These forward-thinking initiatives highlight the potential of taking a strategic approach to supporting local community gardening.

Use the Right to Grow to deliver against local policy priorities

Incredible Edible's Right to Grow campaign urges local authorities to make it easier to identify and access public land suitable for community growing or wildlife projects. It also calls for a simpler process for groups to secure free leases to cultivate the land, and for those groups to have the opportunity to bid if the land is put up for sale.

Right to Grow offers a tangible opportunity for local authorities to deliver on their policy priorities in areas such as wellbeing and social cohesion by supporting local people to grow in their communities. In addition, by enabling community groups to take over underused public spaces, councils could save maintenance costs – which could be repurposed to directly support community growing. »

Recommendation:

Local authorities should consider how creating a local strategy for community gardening, or incorporating community gardening into existing strategies, could help them deliver their policy priorities for local residents.

Recommendation:

Local authorities should consider how they could deliver on their policy priorities and 'green the grey' by adopting Right to Grow.

The Right to Grow campaign has captured national political attention and continues to build momentum at a local level, with six local authorities adopting Right to Grow to date – including Hull and Bury. The more local authorities that adopt Right to Grow, the more barriers will be dismantled for community growers trying to access land and the more councils will be able to utilise the power of the community gardening movement to help them deliver their policy priorities.

Recommendations for funders

Invest in the future

Access to appropriate funding remains a significant hurdle, especially when considering that just 20% of community gardening groups are registered charities.⁷² Groups reported a clear desire for more accessible and flexible funding streams, as well as better support and guidance to access them.⁷³ It is also crucial that funders recognise the differing needs of the diverse range of groups and organisations that make up the community gardening movement, especially in terms of the mix of revenue funding and capital funding opportunities that are urgently needed.

Add to this that 24% of groups stated they did not know where to find appropriate funding opportunities⁷⁴, and it is clear that more needs to be done to ensure community gardening groups of all shapes and sizes – including those operating outside the UK's charity sector – are able to access funding.

Recommendation:

Funders supporting green infrastructure should review their grant opportunities in light of the findings of this report. Many community gardens are not registered charities and as such may be ineligible for many sources of funding under current restrictive criteria; larger organisations and infrastructure networks are often in urgent need of sustainable revenue funding as well as capital opportunities; and all community gardening groups need to see lighter touch application processes and reporting expectations from funders.

Call to action

The RHS, other organisations supporting community growing, and government – both national and local – need to raise our collective ambitions in this space.

How can we better work together to support the community gardening movement to grow and fulfil its full potential for people, places and planet?

In 2026, working closely with other organisations supporting the community gardening movement, the RHS will use this report to create an action plan setting out how we will support and build the movement going forward.



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The RHS Communities team would like to express our thanks to everyone who generously gave their time, insight, experience and expertise to this research and report.

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Particular thanks are due to the members of the National Network for Community Gardening (listed beside), whose wisdom and support has helped us shape this project since its inception.

Many community gardening groups took part in 1:1 interviews with RHS staff and focus groups with Morris Hargreaves McIntyre. Other groups kindly supported this project by reading an early copy of this report and providing their advice and insights, to help the RHS team ensure the report's recommendations reflect the needs of community gardening groups.

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Keep Scotland Beautiful

Keep Wales Tidy

National Garden Scheme

National Trust

Natural England

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Social Farms & Gardens

Soil Association

Sustain

The Conservation Volunteers

The National Allotment Society

The Orchard Project

The Wildlife Trusts

Thrive

Wates Family Enterprise Trust

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Grow Cardiff – Cardiff, Wales

Ligoniel Improvement Association – Belfast, Northern Ireland

Oasis Community Gardens – Worksop, England

Core Landscapes – London, England



Research background and methodology

In autumn 2024, the RHS commissioned Morris Hargreaves McIntyre (MHM) to help audit the status of community gardening groups in the UK.

The first stage of research involved launching the National Community Gardening Survey in January 2025. There was an overwhelming response, thanks to the many partner organisations who promoted the survey to their members and networks.

Every effort was made to make the survey sample as representative as possible, with more than 9,600 community gardening groups contacted to participate. 2,023 groups from across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland responded – a survey response rate of 21%. Due to the large sample size, high response rate and the range of groups who responded (based on location, staff structure, number of volunteers, years established, focus) we have taken the data as representative of the community gardening movement.

The survey was followed up with 34 depth interviews, each lasting 30 minutes or more, carried out by RHS staff in the Communities team. Finally, MHM carried out three 90-minute focus groups to deepen understanding of the survey results.

At the same time, as part of a broader look at the state of gardening in the UK, the RHS worked with YouGov on an online ‘Sustainability Survey’ with a sample of 3,041 adults; fieldwork was undertaken in January 2025, and the figures have been weighted to be representative of all UK adults. This survey produced quantitative estimations of the scale of both the existing community gardening movement and the potential for growth. The number that is missing here is ‘how many community gardening groups are there in the UK?’; but due to the informal nature of many groups and the diversity of types of groups, so far it has not been possible to make this estimate.

This report has set out to highlight the key statistics, themes and trends that have emerged from these two research projects, whilst also capturing some of the breadth of activity – brought to life in the case studies we have featured – to paint a comprehensive picture of the community gardening movement in the UK in 2025.

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- 71 – 74. The Space to Grow amendment (at the time of writing, currently Amendment 149 to the Planning & Infrastructure Bill) was drafted and supported by members of the National Network for Community Gardening, including the RHS, the National Allotment Society, Garden Organic, Sustain, Thrive, Incredible Edible and The Wildlife Trusts. The amendment was sponsored by Sarah Champion MP in the House of Commons, and championed by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle in the House of Lords. At the time of writing the Bill is in Committee Stage in the House of Lords, and a decision on Amendment 149 is yet to be reached





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