

THE OUR SPACE AWARD

GREENING LONDON'S COMMUNITY SPACES

What is the Our Space Award?

The Our Space Award, run by environmental and community engagement charity Groundwork London, helps communities to 'clean and green' their neighbourhood.

Tideway supported the 2021-22 and 2022-23 programme, which gave grants to 62 projects across the capital to come together to improve spaces, make them more climate resilient and, in many cases, use them as educational spaces.

Part of our donation included reinvested savings from our Sustainable Financing Framework – this financing agreement links reduced interest on our debt to delivering legacy commitments. In both years we exceeded our target to have at least 85% of our live commitments on track and re-invested the interest saving into Our Space.

Grants ranged from £500 to £20,000 and more than half the grants (34) supported projects in the 14 boroughs along the tunnel's route.

Our Space Award – 2021/22 and 2022/23

Partners involved	Area of land improved (m2)	Total area de-paved (m2)	Trees planted
192	93,983	1,334	1,882
Participants involved	Total number of volunteers	Volunteers: Young people/children	Total number of volunteer hours
7,815	4,451	4,144	26,135

Martin Petry, Grants Manager at Groundwork London, said: *"It has been a fantastic collaboration working with Tideway. Over 60 projects have benefited in this time, leading to more communities being empowered to take ownership and improve their community spaces. We are thankful for the partnership and for the additional benefit Tideway volunteers have brought through giving valuable time to green spaces. It has been a pleasure working with the team."*

John Sage, Tideway's Head of Corporate Responsibility, said: *"Tideway's experience of supporting the Our Space Award has been totally positive – from working with the brilliant team at Groundwork London to seeing the fantastic impact that the programme has had in 2022, 2023 and the beginning of 2024. To see spaces made beautifully natural and more climate resilient by local volunteers, and in many cases also being used for community education about nature, is so inspiring."*

Below are case studies of just some of the Our Space Award projects funded in this period.

Case studies – 2022/23

Small project: Ambitious About Autism, Haringey – Shared Dipping Pond

- **Awarded through Action Funder**
- **Total area of land improved: 30m2**
- **Participants: 30**

Treehouse School in North London is operated by Ambitious About Autism. The school has been developing an area of nearby land to cultivate a range of plants. Through the award they installed a dipping pond for the benefit of the 200 young people they regularly engage with. About 30 participants were involved in creating it, supported by 10 volunteers.

Since the project completed there has been a visible increase in the biodiversity of the local area, with frogs, newts, leeches, water boatmen and dragonflies within the pond and surrounding areas. The pond is also a useful teaching resource for the science curriculum, as well as exploring the benefits of biodiversity and the importance of a variety of habitats.



Case studies – 2021/22

Large project: Core Arts, Hackney - Roof-top Rain Gardening at Core

- **Total area of land improved:** 31m²
- **Number of volunteers engaged:** 50
- **Participants:** 500

Core Arts promotes positive mental health and wellbeing through creative learning. They provide quality education, training, employment and social enterprise initiatives that enable people who experience mental health issues to overcome barriers, fulfil their potential and participate fully in their community. This project improved their rooftop garden and small pockets of public greening - capturing rainwater; installing solar panels to support a unique irrigation/pumping system; and upcycling new planters.



Small project: Stillness Junior School, Lewisham – the Stillness Eco Garden

- **Total area of land improved:** 460m²
- **Number of volunteers engaged:** 211 (140 adults, 71 children)
- **De-paved area:** 460m²

The project is creating a permanent, sustainable Eco Garden within the school grounds to be used for outdoor learning, play and to embed a culture of environmentalism at the school. The funds have had a direct impact on the whole school, bringing the PTA, children, teachers and parents together to volunteer their time into creating an impressive new space. Thanks to the grant, it activated further funding from Grow Back Greener, a GLA fund that is also managed by Groundwork London.



Case studies – 2022/23

Large project: Brookfield Primary School, Camden - Brookfield Forest Garden

- **Total area of land improved:** 250m²
- **Number of participants:** 287 (108 adults, 179 young people)
- **De-paved area:** 220m²

The school turned a section of its playground into a new forest garden for outdoor learning, informal natural play and cultivate a range of food pupils can enjoy. The space now includes:

- 3 rainwater harvest tanks
- 1 pond
- 1 biodiversity observation platform
- 1 native hedgerow
- 2 bug hotels and 3 bird boxes
- 1 greenhouse for seed production and all-year round growing
- Hundreds of plants and bulbs

The project developed the design with the pupils and the Our Space Award activated additional support, donations from Highgate Cemetery and further funding for a greenhouse. The garden won the Camden Eco Awards 'Super School' prize in 2023.

"We've found Our Space to be a brilliant and supportive funder... understanding and open for communication at each step. It's been an excellent award to be part of!" Brookfield Primary School

Before



After



Case studies – 2022/23

Small project: Global Generation, Southwark - Growing Greener Together

- **Total area of land improved:** 312
- **Participants:** 710

Global Generation is an educational charity which works with local children and young people, businesses, residents and families in Southwark. They co-create spaces with the local community to show how derelict urban environments can be transformed and repurposed. Our Space supported their Paper Garden in Canada Water, a space that was previously an old newspaper printworks.

The grant allowed Global Generation project to clear the site of hazards, add lighting, secure the site and build a variety of planters. The award activated access to further donations of top soil, timber and plants to enable the project to exceed its aims.

A key element of the project was engagement with local schools and educating the community. More than 710 participants from local schools were taught about biodiversity and what they can actively do to improve soil health.

Canada Water is undergoing redevelopment and spaces like this are needed to ensure a safe and secure space that connects the local community to green spaces.



Case studies – 2022/23

Small project: Coppermill Primary School, Waltham Forest - the Outdoor Classroom Project

- **Total area of land improved:** 500m²
- **Total concrete removed:** 4m²
- **Participants:** 270

The majority of the land at Coppermill Primary School, a small primary school in Waltham Forest, is concreted and there is a high risk of flooding. It has only a few suitably shaded spaces.

The school identified an underused area suitable for outdoor learning and the project, which was also funded by the local council, transformed it with plants, thriving planters, improved seating and a new mural. The space is a now fun way to engage young people in learning about the environment and natural sciences.

The project has removed areas of concrete to develop a new orchard space close to the mural. The school aims to plant six new trees to provide shaded areas and to support the learning and biodiversity that has taken place.

Before - November 2022



After - June 2023



Promoting Greener Communities



Tideway