MARLBOROUGH SPORTS GARDEN

Working together for a healthier future



BANKSIDE OPEN SPACES TRUST

BANKSIDE OPEN SPACES TRUST

Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST) is an environmental and volunteering charity working to provide outstanding green spaces and outdoor activities that enhance the health and wellbeing of urban communities.

We care for open spaces and share our love of gardening and the environment. We support local people gardening on their estates, run horticultural training and host a range of youth and sports activities throughout the year.







GROWING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Alongside Marlborough Sports Garden, Bankside Open Spaces Trust manage and maintain 19 public parks, gardens and open spaces and run community programmes connecting people to nature, developing their skills in horticulture and encouraging them to become more active. Join our community of change-makers today and help us deliver an outstanding open space that enhances the health and wellbeing of our urban community.



Charity no.1085454

THE HISTORY OF MARLBOROUGH SPORTS GARDEN

Growing a garden for the community to flourish in









1921

Marlborough Sports Garden opened in 1921. The space is named after the Duchess of Marlborough, Consuelo Vanderbilt Balsan, who decreed that "*Surplus land from an insanitary area between Borough High Street and Red Cross Street should be used as a recreation ground*".

2000-05

Over the years, the garden falls into disrepair and is threatened with development. Newly formed **Bankside Open Spaces Trust lobbies for the site to be protected**. Southwark Council thankfully listens and Marlborough Sports Garden is protected as Borough Open Land. **In 2006 a lease is signed with Southwark Council**.

2006-10

Phase 1 of the redevelopment starts with a grassroots consultation exercise which reveals that **the local community wants the site to be developed for sports and play**.

2010-12

BOST mounts an **ambitious campaign to develop pop-up pitches and activities** to coincide with the London 2012 Olympic Games. The event marks the start of the 2nd stage of redevelopment.

2016-18

Marlborough Sports Garden reopens after a **£585,000 refurbishment to improve standards and accessibility**. Funding came from S106 money via Southwark Council and a grant from the London Marathon Charitable Trust. **Olympian Tom Daley helps celebrate the reopening with local families**.

2020-

BOST secures £1.125m Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to carry out the final phase of redevelopment. Plans are drawn up for a building and improved facilities which **win 2 awards and pass planning in 2022**.

MARLBOROUGH SPORTS GARDEN

Marlborough Sports Garden is Bankside Open Spaces Trust's outdoor, multisport facility and community space. Free to access, it's within walking distance of eight primary schools and offers a wide range of sporting activities, from football to roller skating, in addition to hosting community events.





Marlborough Sports Garden is located in the heart of an urban community just behind the very busy Borough High Street which serves thousands of residents, workers and tourists every day.

We have plans to harness the potential of this unique space through our ambitious re-development capital project. Recently the site's proposals picked up two design awards — winning the Future Place category at The Pineapples, which celebrate public spaces, and the Community Prize at the New London Architecture Awards.

This £3 million+ transformation will enable Bankside Open Spaces Trust to offer much more to our community. The improved site will provide a wider range of physical activity opportunities and will appeal to a more diverse audience with upgraded outdoor spaces, proper indoor toilets and changing facilities, a welcoming café offering healthy options and cooking workshops, and indoor studios to allow us to host community groups and classes year-round.

We are looking for like-minded partners to work with us on this exciting, ambitious redevelopment project. Your support is vital to improving lives within the local community.

FACILITIES

Our vision is to create an environment where people can find it easier to eat well, exercise more, develop a love for and proficiency in many sports, and establish healthy habits for life.



SPORTS

The garden is open seven days a week and comprises a multi-use games pitch, sand court, basketball and netball facilities, bouldering wall and table tennis tables. Lots of other sports can take place in the space including tag rugby, wallball, beach tennis, footvolley, handball, fitness training, weight training and yoga.



COMMUNITY

In an area lacking in open spaces, Marlborough Sports Garden offers plenty of room for informal play and relaxation. Hundreds of children and young people use Marlborough Sports Garden to burn off steam after school and office workers enjoy having somewhere outdoors to sit and relax at lunchtime. The space is available at a low cost for community members to host children's parties or other events.



ACCESSIBILITY

The garden has ramped access and plenty of seating including benches built into the timber surround of the sand court, a covered raised decking area with large picnic benches, metal seating by the ball courts and tables and chairs in the events space.



THE LOCAL COMMUNITY FACE COMPLEX BARRIERS TO AN ACTIVE & HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

URBANISATION[1]

Residents face other challenges of inner-city living including high air pollution and a proliferation of fast-food encouraging a poor diet and inactivity. Recent statistics for Borough and Southwark streets indicate that **71% of dwellings are without private or shared garden**. The Southwark Open Space Strategy recorded that Borough and Bankside are below the borough standard for park provision.

OBESITY[2]

Southwark has the **highest rate of childhood obesity at year 6** of any local authority in England. Half of all adults in Southwark are overweight or obese. **52.8% adults (16+) in Southwark do no physical activity** or sport at all.

> Half of all adults in Southwark are **overweight or obese**

1 Urban Health Index (UHI) for Lambeth and Southwark
2 *Everybody's Business - Southwark Healthy Weight Strategy 2016-2021*, Southwark Health and Wellbeing Board

“

A third of all neighbourhoods in Southwark are among the **20% most deprived in England**

DEPRIVATION[3]

Around a third of all neighbourhoods in Southwark are among the **20% most deprived in England**. Locally, **just over a quarter of children aged 0-15 are living in households claiming out of work benefits**. This is significantly higher than Southwark borough average and indicates high levels of child poverty.

POOR OUTDOOR SCHOOL PROVISION[4]

Almost 400,000 pupils (30% of all pupils in London) attend schools with less than ten square metre per pupil of open space (the minimum recommended area by DfE). While 800,000 pupils attend schools with less than ten square metre per pupil of green space.

3 National Index of Multiple Deprivation
4 *Nowhere to Play: Available Open and Green Space in Greater London Schools* (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33742376/)



“

Most of our children come from deprived backgrounds and live in high rise or multi occupancy flats with other families. Many of our children don’t get out and about to local parks, even during COVID-19 and I would say less than 10% have ever been to Richmond Park or Greenwich Park never mind rural, countryside England.

– FRANCES O’KANE (ST JOSEPH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL)

ACCESS TO HAPPIER AND HEALTHIER LIVES



LASTING PARTICIPATION

Through our core programmes, we seek to encourage a love of sport from an early age. We know children who participate in sport are much more likely to continue to take part as an adult and in turn this has a huge impact on their health and wellbeing. Sadly, children who are inactive, overweight or obese are likely to remain so in later life. Currently, over a half of adults in Southwark are overweight or obese.

TARGETED CHANGE

We work hard to create a programme which appeals to groups who are less likely to exercise or who have found themselves exercising less since the pandemic.

RENTED SPACES

Much of our work is subsidised or free so even the most marginalised can participate. Pitch hires subsidise this activity and secures the site's long-term financial sustainability. Hires also support ongoing maintenance to keep our facilities at the highest standard.

WELLBEING

In addition to the physical health agenda, as part of our wider vision to establish healthy habits for life, we have developed a more holistic programme encompassing principles of healthy eating and wellbeing.

HIGH FOOTFALL

Marlborough Sports Garden's gate counters recorded a footfall of approximately 212,000 in 2019. Hundreds of children and families walk through the site every day to get to local schools. The site is well placed to have a huge impact on young lives.

IMPACT



> “I like that I can learn new things and help people… because when I help them, It makes them happy and then it makes me feel more happy about what I’ve done.”

> “I haven’t really known how to go sporting [before] and if I wasn’t at the Marlborough then I probably wouldn’t even do sports… I like joining in with the clubs [at Marlborough] because they’re always welcoming other people.”

> “We live in a flat, so it’s nice to be spending time outside. It’s something to look forward to in a week, a planned activity…. it’s good to meet different families and people, it’s good for your mental health.”

> “[My daughter had] never done football prior to coming here, and she seems really confident with that [now]. She tells me that in school she was playing with the year six football so she obviously feels quite confident. She’s only in year two.”

> “I’m a single parent so it’s nice for me that it’s all free. That’s amazing.”

BUILDING AN UPGRADED VENUE

Bankside Open Spaces Trust worked with architects Cullinan Studio to create this vision for Marlborough Sports Garden. The proposed facilities will increase the use of the space for events by incorporating shade and rain cover, as well as catering facilities and toilet provision. Indoor facilities like studios, small work units and meeting rooms will give us more opportunities for hires, boosting the garden's income stream and subsidising community events and activities. The new facilities will be fully accessible for disabled people.







THE FUTURE

Marlborough Sports Garden has the potential to become a local hub for mental and physical wellbeing. With purpose-built indoor spaces, upgraded sports infrastructure, and improved facilities, the site will enable us to reach even more groups most at risk from ill health and social isolation. The development will hugely boost our hire income – with pitch and indoor space hires subsidising our work within the community.

With your support we can ensure Marlborough Sports Garden reaches its full potential. We're seeking partners to help make our award-winning development plans a reality. With top quality facilities and subsidised sports provision, we know that together we can have a huge impact on the health and wellbeing of our community for years to come.





OUR PARTNERS

Access Sport

Active Communities Network

BlackRock

Deuce Beach Tennis

LMF London Marathon Foundation Inspiring Activity

England Netball

London Irish Community

The PE and School Sports Network

London South Bank University EST 1892

Pride of Lions

Regan's Soccer School

SOSH School of Skater Hockey

supported by Southwark Council southwark.gov.uk

Sport England

SSS

Surrey County Cricket Club – Surrey Cricket Foundation

The Tallow Chandlers Company

the bridge

Team London Bridge

UK Wallball