

Welcome to Grapes Hill Community Garden.

The garden is looked after by Grapes Hill Community Garden Group (GHCGG) and rented from Norwich City Council for £1 a year. The Group was founded in summer 2008.

The garden was tarmac until September 2010 when work began on the hard landscaping of the garden, paid for by a lottery grant. Work was completed in January 2011 and volunteers planted up the garden between January and June 2011. The plants were paid for by the Greater Norwich Development Partnership and a Norfolk County Council tree grant and donated by members of the public.

Compost, mulch and rainwater

At the top of the garden is our composting area. We make compost from our garden waste and use leaves from the comfrey growing next to the heap to speed up the process. When it rains we collect rainwater in the rainwater butts and use it to water the garden. We've spread well-rotted compost on the soil surface as a mulch to add fertility, keep in moisture and suppress weeds.

This top part of the garden has herbs such as chives, lemon balm, apple mint and a low-growing form of rosemary. We also have rhubarb and autumn raspberries, a blackberry and two blackberry/raspberry hybrids - loganberry and tummelberry.

Pergola and deep beds

Our pergola is being used to grow four grapevines and a Wisteria. The fifth planting space is used to grow an annual climber – in 2013 it is a purple Ipomaea (morning glory).

The garden has nine deep beds and we are renting these out to members of the local community to grow their own vegetables. Last year members of the Grapes Hill Community Garden Group grew a variety of fruit and vegetables here, including salads, potatoes, French and runner beans, squashes and sweetcorn.

Meadow, fruit trees and climbers

Beyond the deep beds the garden path passes through our mini meadow and patches of cornfield annuals such as poppies, cornflowers and corn marigolds. Last year's cornfield annuals were allowed to drop their seeds and the soil was cultivated to let their young seedlings grow for the next year's display of flowers. The meadow is a permanent structure which is cut once a year, in August.

There are six apple trees in the meadow, on dwarf (M26) rootstock, including local varieties "Norfolk Royal Russet", "Red Falstaff" and "Adam's Pearmain".

On the edge of the meadow is a medlar tree. We also have a series of climbers and fruit trees along the trellis that separates the garden from nearby houses, including *Clematis*, chocolate vines (*Akebia*), golden hops, honeysuckles, two cherry trees, an apricot and a fig.

Chamomile path, herbs and ornamentals

To the right of the main path, just past the meadow, is our Chamomile Path, a series of stepping stones surrounded by chamomile. This is a non-flowering form of the herb that knits together to form lawns and paths. The plants came from cuttings donated by the Sustainable Living Initiative.

At the far end of the garden we've planted lots of ornamental perennials and herbs. These are already attracting butterflies, hoverflies, bumblebees and other insects. Many have scented or tactile leaves. There are around thirty types of herbs in the garden, and over two hundred species of plants overall – not including vegetables or meadow flowers.

Lawn, log feature and ash trees

The lawn provides an area to sit and picnic. The garden benches and the log feature on the lawn were created by Patrick Goodall. The log feature is made up of trunks of different tree species, with the initial letter carved in the top – “O” for oak and so on.

Underneath the ash trees we have planted woodland wildflowers such as primroses, wood anemones, snowdrops and dog violets. Many die down in early summer, to reappear the following spring. We're also establishing patches of bluebells and wild garlic.

Back towards the main gates are patches of sweet cicely and wild and alpine strawberries under the ash tree and also Japanese wineberries and blue honeysuckles.

Before you leave...

The small tree with a kinked trunk is a quince and the pink shrub on the corner is blackcurrant sage (*Salvia microphylla*).

We hope you've enjoyed your visit. Please feel free to contact us (contact@grapeshillcommunitygarden.org) if you have any questions.

If you'd like to join the Grapes Hill Community Garden Group please ask for a form (or download it from our website): it costs £10 per year (£3 retired / low income / unwaged).

www.grapeshillcommunitygarden.org Facebook: “Grapes Hill Community Garden”