



Finalist's case study

Nottingham Trent University Facilities and Services Greening the City

About the project

Summary

In response to overwhelming student demand, Greening the City is creating a coherent network of green spaces that are inspiring, biodiverse and welcoming, across our urban, city centre campus. NTU's Environment Team identified 13 sites for conversion and two have already been transformed. Boots Library Roof Garden and Dryden Corner Garden have both proved to be popular new additions to the University campus and are already well used by students and staff.

Project partners

Led by Nottingham Trent University's Environment Team and Landscaping Team, the project's key facet is to bridge the gap between Estates and NTU's students. Dryden Corner Garden was designed by Jackie Setchfield, Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal Winner and NTU Alumnus, while the soft landscaping of the Boots Library Garden was designed by current undergraduate Horticulture students.

The results

The problem

In spring 2014, we asked over 800 students and staff what they wanted from NTU's City Campus and the overwhelming feeling was that the campus would benefit from more green infrastructure – attractive, inviting and well-maintained outdoor areas for studying and socializing in-between lectures.

The approach

The Environment Team identified 13 sites across the campus that had potential for improvement, from neglected patches of grass to barren, concrete spaces that provide little aesthetic or practical use. Feasibility studies were carried out on the most promising sites and our first two sites were commissioned in 2015. An important element of the project was to utilise the expertise of our staff and Alumni, as well as using the projects as real life coursework for our students.

Our goals

Greening the City intends to address the health and well-being of those living in urban environments, including staff and students working under the pressure of deadlines at the City Campus. The ultimate aim is to create a coherent network of green spaces that will help to create a distinct character for NTU's City Campus.

Obstacles and solutions

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justifying the project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market research showing there was demand for green space on campus to improve |
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Profile

- Higher Education
- 23,440 students (includes full and part time students)
- 2500 staff
- Urban



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	student experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persuading management of the potential of undervalued spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing concepts and imagery showing the potential of those spaces
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with students who have little experience of working to a design brief 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working closely to guide their ideas and ensure designs are fit for purpose

Performance and results

Both converted spaces have proved extremely popular with staff, students and the general public. Dryden Corner Garden transformed a neglected patch of land into an outside haven for lunch, reading or meeting up with friends. Since Boots Library Garden opened in September 2015 it has hosted students who make the most of its openness and tranquility for group work, quiet reading or study breaks. Feedback has been overwhelming positive.

The future

Lessons learned

Following the success of the Boots and Dryden gardens, two more sites will be renewed in the coming months. The Chaucer Bank has recently seen concept submissions from NTU students, with the winning design to be developed by a landscape architect. The second site is an unused car park that is being redesigned by two placement students working within the Estates department.

Sharing your project

The project has grabbed students' attention with fantastic feedback, particularly through social media. The public announcement of the garden project was the most popular NTU Online news during 2014/15, with more than 7,000 impressions on Facebook and Twitter, and more than 4,000 views of related news articles. The project has also generated much local interest. Nottingham City Council have been so excited by the project that we've set up a 'Development Accord' – an ongoing collaborative partnership in which they promise to support the building of new green infrastructure in the city. The gardens have also been visited by various institutions and authorities, including the University of Nottingham, Britain in Bloom, Nottingham City Homes and local schools.

What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

Being a Green Gown Award finalist is a great honour as it confirms that our work is worthy of recognition. While this project has been beneficial to our staff and students, we are elated to find that sharing our experience may be beneficial to other institutions.

Further information

Find out more about our Greening the City project at

https://www4.ntu.ac.uk/sustainability/biodiversity/Our_campuses/green-spaces/index.html

Find out more about Sustainability at Nottingham Trent University at

<https://www4.ntu.ac.uk/sustainability/index.html>