

Queens Park Sensory Garden

A collaborative project between
Friends of Queens Park Bolton, LifeBridge ASEND & the
valued support of Bolton Council



"A sensory garden combines colour, scent, texture, sound and taste to create an engaging space. While all landscapes are sensory, a sensory garden or trail is distinguished by its concentration of experiences, that include interactive features that appeal to a wide range of people. They may be therapeutic, educational or simply calm spaces for relaxation".

Designing the Sensory Garden

Following the redesign of the existing space, each border now relates to a particular sense with plants chosen especially for the individual themes. The additional borders over and above the five senses, have been planted to complete the space and plants are repeated throughout the garden to provide a cohesive scheme. Existing larger shrubs and trees have been kept wherever possible, honouring what was already here, while carefully chosen new planting and artwork have been added to create a thoughtful and uplifting place to explore, reflect, and connect with nature for visitors of all ages.

Whilst the original vision for the garden was mine, it has been brought to life and maintained with the assistance of dedicated volunteers from LifeBridge ASEND and Friends of Queens Park, through our weekly Tuesday gardening sessions.

We are grateful to everyone who has contributed in any way to this garden. It is our hope that it will be respected, protected, and treasured by park visitors for many years to come, offering a peaceful and meaningful place for the whole community to enjoy.

Ruth Crawford, Chair of Friends of Queens Park & Garden Group Organiser

Circular Entrance Area

This area draws your sight in beyond the entrance and it has been planted to compliment the borders beyond

Planting in these borders: Sedum, Forsythia, Sarocococca, Heuchera, Stacys Byzantina, Ferns, Hebe, Euonymus, Viburnum, Cytisus, Cornus, Salvia, Hypericum, Coreopsis, Ivy, Cyclamen

Existing Planting: Cupressus

Art Work: Sensory Sign Mosaic made by Ruth Crawford, Frame made by Robert Holyoake (FoQP)



Sight Border

The sight border is designed to be bright and cheerful to balance vivid, stimulating colours with softer, calming shades. Plants have been included for all year-round and seasonal colour whilst attracting butterflies, bees and birds.

Planting in this border: Apple tree, Rose, Digitalis, Lobelia, Leucanthemum, Eryngium, Lavender, Buddleia, Rosemary, Rudbeckia, Ornamental Grass, Heuchera, Eunonymus, Ferns

Existing planting: Azalea, Cupressus, Hebe

Art work: Butterfly mosaic's - LifeBridge students - Mary, and Hader. These have been specifically included as a tribute to the butterfly house that once stood on this site.

Pebbles - FoQP Volunteers Liz Edgerton (butterfly), Robert Holyoake (squirrel)
Rosanna McFerran (Hedgehog)

Tree mosaic on log - Ruth Crawford

Central border

Planting in this border: Euonymus, Gypsophila, Rosemary, Hebe, Hypericum, Ornamental Grasses, Lupin, Euphorbia, Salvia, Leucanthemum, Begonia, Veronica

Existing planting - Berberis, Phillyrea latifolia 'Niwaki', Ornamental grass

Donations: Penstemon - Bob & Diana Bradley (FoQP)



Taste Border

The Taste border was designed to have a mix of edible flowers, fruit and vegetables all growing in harmony.

Planting in this border: edible plants - Apple, Rose, Pansy, Lavender, Nasturtium, Verbena, Marrow, Pumpkin, Viola, Strawberry, Rhubarb, Alyssum, Pyracantha, Campanula, Viburnum, Cytisus, Plus Geraniums and salvia
Herbs – Mint, Thyme, Lemon Balm, Bay, Rosemary, Dill, Nepeta, Sorrel, Helichrysum

Existing planting: Juniperus, Stipa Gigantea, Euphorbia, Black eyed Susan, Lavender

Other: Herb Planter made by Ladybridge High School Caretaking team

Bee box by Ladybridge High School Pupils

Strawberry Planter made by Ruth Crawford using wood donated by Devonshire Road Primary School.

Donations: Strawberry plants and Dill- Clare Price Neighbourhood Watch, Lemon Balm- Julie Brick (FoQP), Bay- Ruth Crawford

Nasturtiums grown from seed by LifeBridge students



Smell Borders

There are two Scented borders within the garden, which were designed to mirror each other and these were the first borders to be planted in 2025.

Planting in these borders: Roses, Verbena, Salvia, Lavender, Indian Mint, hydrangea, Scabiosa, Phlox, Blue grass, Lupin, Euphorbia, Begonia, Perovski, Erysimum, Geum, Calendula, Ceanothus, Choisya, Philadelphus, Winter Jasmine and Sarocococca, Bulbs

Existing Planting - Cotinus Coggygria in RH border, Trachycarpus fortune in both

Corner Border

Planted to create a cohesive scheme with the other borders

Planting in this border: Cornus, Viburnum, Ornamental Grass, Holly, Euonymus, Lavender, Pittosporum, Sedum

Existing planting: Hebe, Euphorbia, Anemone, Helenium

Art Work: Bolton Lads & Girls Club on totem, Pebble - LifeBridge Student

Wildlife Friendly Border



The wildlife friendly border was created initially to enter the Rotary Bolton Lever Wildlife Friendly Competition and has become as much a part of the garden as the other borders. This has been designed to encourage wildlife and natural habitats, with a small pond and tree logs from the park included

Planting in this border: Cornus, Grasses, Poppies, Wildflower selection including Borage, Heuchera, Hebe, Ferns, Ceanthus, Hebe, Pittosporum, Lophomyrtus

Existing Planting: Anenome, Juniperus

Other: Bee Box – Ladybridge High School pupils

Bug Hotel - Ruth Crawford and Robert Holyoake (FoQP)

Donations - Pond, Pittosporum, Lophomyrtus, Wildflower seeds -Ruth Crawford



Touch Border

The Touch border is designed to have a mix of materials, fabrics and finishes to provide varied, pleasant textures. It has a number of tactile surfaces included, in the form of the pebble border, sunken terracotta, tree logs and concrete mushrooms alongside various plant species.

Planting in this border: Cytisus, Nandina, Eryngium, Sedum, Stacys Byzantina, Rosemary, Heuchera, Holly, Ornamental Grasses, Verbena, Pittosporum, Cotoneaster, Tiarella, Ivy, Ajuga, Heather, Pyracantha, Cornus, Mahonia, Hypericum

Existing Planting - Tamarix Tetrandra, Hebe, Clethra Alnifolia, Hebe, Juniperus

Other: Mushrooms made by Ruth Crawford & Anna Pycroft (FoQP) and painted by the LifeBridge Students

The Pebbles - by children and adults during FoQP Craft sessions

Bee Box – Ladybridge High School pupils

Bird mosaics - Rhiana LifeBridge Student, Anna Pycroft (FoQP) Claire Hilley - LifeBridge



Sound Border

The sound border has been designed to include both natural and designed sounds, including water in the form of a bird bath to encourage birdsong, whilst generating sound whilst birds use it and when it rains. The inclusion of a water feature adds calming movement, cool texture and soothing sound. Rustling foliage is enabled through the inclusion of plants such as bamboo and tall grasses with the movement of wind.

Planting in this border: Leucanthemum, Digitalis, Buddleia, Nandina, Various ornamental grasses, Heuchera, Stacys Byzantina, Ferns, Bamboo, Verbena, Lobelia, Achillea, Coreopsis, Eunonymus

Other: Bee Mosaic - LifeBridge staff member

Wind Spinner- Robert Holyoake (FoQP)