

Knights Hill Wood

REGENERATION PROJECT

Making the woods into a Nature Reserve

The project aim to improve an underused local woodland, increase community cohesion and teach participants new skills, boosting their confidence and increasing their social networks.



Nature Vibezzz has been awarded £9,405 from the Big Lottery Fund to run a community project at Knights Hill Wood, Knights Hill, West Norwood, Lambeth, London SE27 0QA.

1

CLEAN UP

Attend and maintain the site.

2

PRESERVE

Help the native woodland regrow and increase wildlife.

3

INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY

Neighbours to directly participate, enhance the reserve and their lives through the project.

INITIATIVE OF



Not for profit providing Forest School, Environmental Education and Practical Nature Conservation sessions, programs, events and community projects.

www.naturevibezzz.org

FUNDED BY



LOTTERY FUNDED

The Big Lottery Fund gives grants to organisations in the UK to help improve their communities.
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FERN LODGE TENANTS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

PORTOBELLO TENANTS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

This community project, funded by an Awards For All grant, runs 40 activities engaging with a wide range of people from the local area, encouraging increased responsible usage of the woodland and through specific interventions such as installing seating and a pick up your litter sign designed by local children.

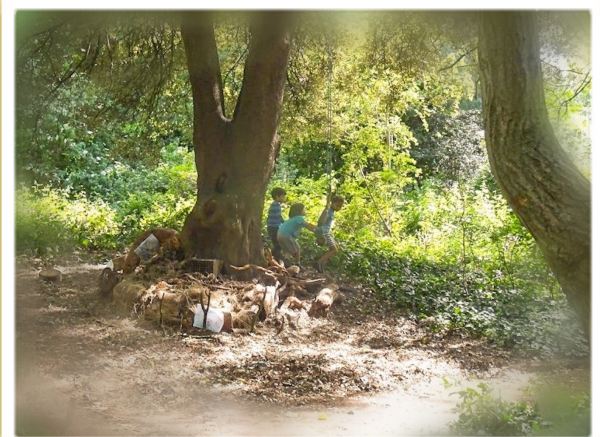


A total of 38 Forest School / natural play / environmental educational / practical nature conservation sessions will be scheduled, mainly at Knights Hill Wood. Some of the sessions are run in local housing estates, enabling the project to connect with urban children and families from deprived areas who otherwise would not participate in the activities. These mostly weekly activities are run mainly on Saturday mornings, with many of our project activities involving children and young people up to 15 years old. Other activities involve practical nature conservation which will help maintain/increase the natural biodiversity of Knights Hill Wood, and these are open to all.

Two coach trips to countryside locations will be run for local families participating in the project. These will connect members of all the generations living in the local area, helping to connect old and young people in order to foster a stronger community.

"I've lived in this area for nearly 20 years. This little pocket of woodland of Knight's Hill had suffered from not being loved very much and it is great that Nature Vibezzz had taken the challenge and it's changing it into something kids can really enjoy. Around us kids are clearing and planting things, playing, having fun, climbing trees, playing on ropes and this is bringing life to a little bit what use to be the great North Wood."

- Local volunteer



What has happened so far: making a difference

The works carried out by Nature Vibezzz and the local volunteers it's already making a difference.

Over 30 families with members of all ages coming individually or with local community groups such as the Natural Childhood have helped, learned and shared the following activities:

APRIL:

- Ramble: hot tea, meet up, recruiting, networking, project outline, scan area.
- Natural benches installation.
- Identifying species: removal of invasive, conditioning of native.
- Ivy management: removal of ivy from identified species, establish areas where it's left to grow free and other controlled areas.
- Getting ready for planting: soil preparation, set areas boundaries.
- Forest School activities and nature play.
- Litter picking: tools and safety equipment provided.



The activities for children include natural play in outside environments, environmental education such as bug-hunting, and plant ID. Forest school activities include cooking on a campfire, making items from wood, and learning to use tools.



MAY:

- Preserving native species: making death hedges around specific areas and redefining paths.
- Re-Introducing woodland species: planting wild flowers .
- Designing signs for the site.
- Forest school activities and litter picking.

JUNE:

- Litter picking
- Using death edging technique for repairing fence and around wild flowers areas.
- Forest School activities: finishing building children's den.

What's next

- To continue work described above until site reaches an acceptable level of accessibility for the community.
- To continue working closely with the community strengthening a collective responsibility for the natural spaces in the area.
- To develop programs and projects to make the community aware of the Heritage and Historical importance of the local natural spaces.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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