



**BANKSIDE
OPEN SPACES
TRUST**



Social Impact Report

2022/23

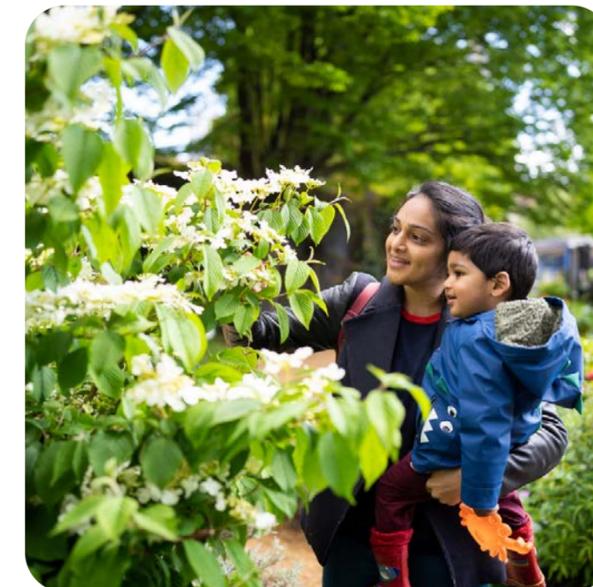
In 2023, we worked to serve our local communities by ...



**Enhancing health
and wellbeing**



**Empowering and
engaging local
communities**



**Transforming
open spaces**

Enhancing health and wellbeing

We welcome residents, businesses and other individuals to get involved in our outstanding open spaces.

Our opportunities include:

- ▶ Volunteer gardening sessions
- ▶ Corporate workdays
- ▶ Park steering groups
- ▶ Green Hub - our residents' gardening network
- ▶ Wardens at Crossbones Graveyard
- ▶ Trusteeships

"The sessions have helped my personal growth/ knowledge and it has been a grounding experience for me."

– Monday Volunteer, March 2023 –

In 2022/23, our hardworking parks team and volunteers were recognised through:



- 4** Green Flag Awards for park management excellence
- 4** London in Bloom Awards, including Gold for Red Cross and Tate Community Gardens
- ✓ A nomination for Britain in Bloom 2023

16

open spaces managed
and maintained

343

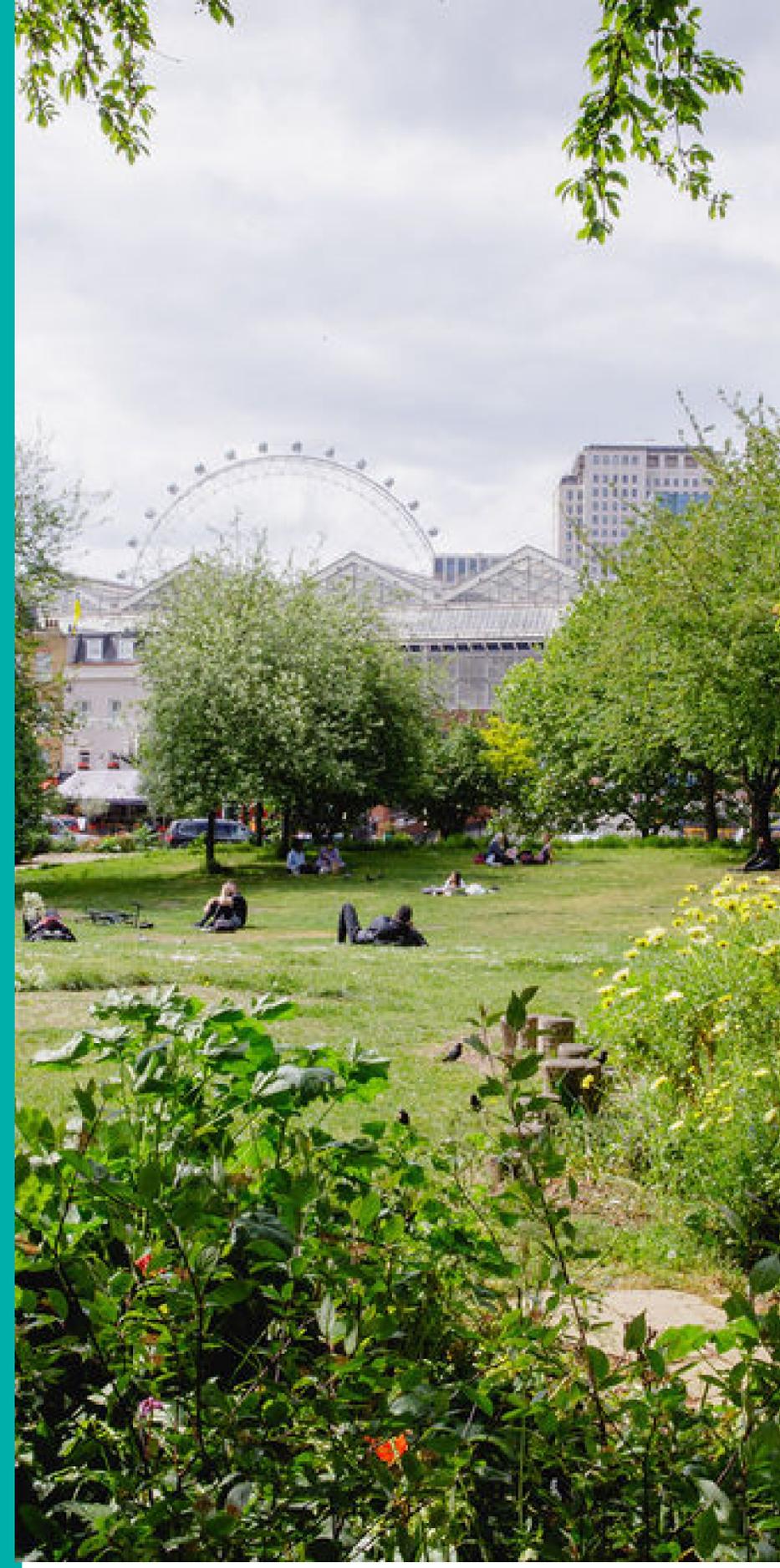
volunteers

317

community gardening
sessions

4,292

hours of volunteering
to maintain parks for
our communities



Community Involvement and Volunteering

Our volunteer groups, Green Hub, activities at Living Space and special partnerships enabled us to engage with and uplift a wide range of people from our local community.

73% of our volunteers felt more appreciated as a result of working in our spaces.

Outreach

In 2022/23, we greatly diversified the range of people we work with through community outreach. Including:

- Refugees and asylum seekers through Breaking Barriers.
- Local community groups like Southwark College and the Outside Project (LGBTQ+).
- Neurodivergent individuals through bulb planting and seed sowing sessions.
- Those affected by the energy crisis through a Warm Hub at Living Space and via our partnership with The Bridge.
- Older people with Blackfriars Settlement.

Corporate Volunteers

Corporate groups work across our parks and the green sites we maintain. The work they do greatly enhances our urban green spaces. Feedback from corporate volunteers in 2022/23 showed that:

96% felt the activities helped them develop a stronger team.

84% now had an improved understanding of issues facing the community.

95% said their appreciation of the local environment had improved.

“Thanks so much for this morning! Everyone had a terrific time – was a really lovely morning and great to be able to play a small part in such a wonderful project.”

– Green Team volunteer 2023 –



Community volunteers with our London in Bloom Award for Tate Modern Community Garden.

A Green Team corporate volunteering session.





Project focus: Marlborough Sports Garden

Marlborough Sports Garden is a rare open space in London's densely populated SE1 where around 93% of dwellings are flats with little, if any, outdoor space. The area also has high poverty rates. In Southwark 40% of children in Year 6 are obese. Our accessible sports facilities and coaching at MSG are free or heavily subsidised. Essential for **enhancing health and wellbeing** and tackling rising health inequalities.

In 2022/23 our work at MSG included:

Sports coaching for children and young people

- Free** coached afterschool sports sessions for ages 4-11, designed in consultation with our young participants.
- 10** different sports on offer across three afternoons a week, including beach volleyball, roller skating to music, touch rugby and girls football.
- 2** terms of full afterschool sports coaching, plus year round football and girls' football session.
- 459** registered participants took part in our afterschool and holiday multi-sports programmes.
- 50%** of places on holiday multisport camps were free to children from low-income households.

Sports sessions for older children and adults

- ▶ Active Communities Network ran free weekend football sessions for ages 4-11 and 16+ and free school holiday football tournaments for teenagers.
- ▶ Free weekly walking football sessions for people aged 55+ living with cancer and other chronic health conditions.



Empowering and engaging local communities

We work to empower local people to care for green spaces where they live. We also engage communities in green spaces and gardening through outdoor activities and events across our sites.

“Over the year (Green Hub) has really helped develop and grow the garden, providing tools and curating a site-specific list of bulbs and grasses which we planted this October...And all summer long we had bees, butterflies, moths and birds feeding from the plants.”

– Green Hub participant 2022/23 –

Living Space

Our community centre in Waterloo offers halls and office space for hire and is a hub for community activities such as afterschool clubs and holiday camps for families.

In 2022/23, Living Space:

- Facilitated 1,028 hires and had 15,710 attendances.
- Hosted a Warm Hub where local people could drop in, socialise, have a hot meal and get help with claiming benefits and updating CVs.
- Distributed Energy Saving kits, containing draft excluders, low energy use light bulbs and radiator reflectors.
- Hosted activities for children and young people - 2,523 attendees over 11 weeks of holiday.



Green Hub

Our Green Hub network connects people growing on shared spaces where they live in London's SE1. We actively work with 18 different, resident-led projects, offering a wide range of support including horticultural advice and training, planning, help with funding applications, workshops, tools and materials, assistance from BOST's volunteer workforce and more.

In 2022/23 our Green Hub:



Distributed **428** plants and **104** bulbs planted by local residents



Helped to create **8** new wildlife habitats



Provided **21** new tools to community gardening groups



Ran **21** group gardening sessions attended by 81 residents



Delivered **6** free workshops and events attended by **106** people





“Very grateful for having had this opportunity, thought it (Future Gardeners) was very well organised and has really helped my mental health and job prospects - thank you!”
 – Future Gardeners student in June 2022 –

Future Gardeners

Our free horticulture course aimed at those in long-term unemployment, or those who want to make a career change but are struggling to access further education and training.

We aim for our Future Gardeners to be work ready by the end of their 12 week course. Students are helped in their employment journey with a weekly Job Club, 1-1 support in CV creation and job applications and interviews.

In 2022/23

- 34** students took part in 3 rounds of the course.
- 47%** had a disability or long-term health condition.
- 71%** graduated.
- 65%** of the students who graduated in 2022/23 are in employment or further training.

Community Events

In 2022/23, we hosted:

- ▶ A special Platinum Jubilee Bank Open Spaces Festival for 20,000 people
- ▶ Events to celebrate the seasons: a Green Halloween in Marlborough Sports Garden, the festive Winter Warmer in Red Cross Garden and an Easter themed Treasure Hunt across both gardens.
- ▶ Garden tours for Chelsea Fringe
- ▶ Open garden events for London Open Garden Squares Weekend



Bankside Open Spaces Festival in numbers

- 20K** festival goers
- 6** stages
- 50** acts and 25 live bands
- 90** local stalls
- 95%** of festival goers surveyed said the festival was excellent.



Transforming open spaces

In 2022/23 we worked to transform open spaces by



- Maintaining 16 open spaces and 4 street planters
- Planting
 - 25 trees
 - 335 hedging plants
 - 641 shrubs/herbaceous plants
 - 1000 bulbs
- Caring for 5 wildlife ponds, 2 rain gardens
- Creating 2 log piles for wildlife



Looking forward

In 2022/23 we finalised our designs for the final phase of our redevelopment of Marlborough Sports Garden.

Key features of the development:

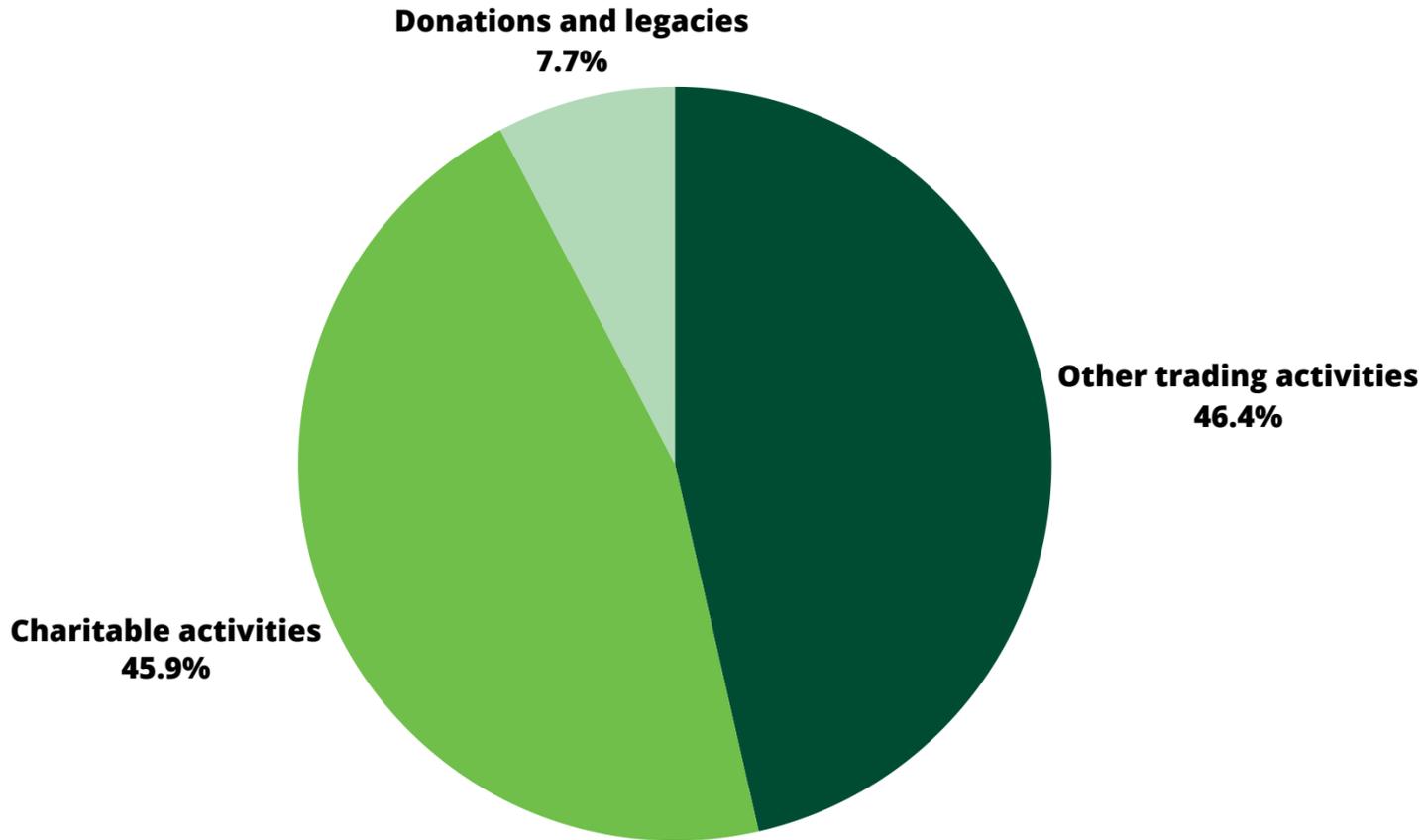
- ▶ A new welcoming entrance
- ▶ A new community hub with flexible indoor sports studio, outdoor classroom, viewing platform and spectator seating
- ▶ A community café and events space with accessible toilets
- ▶ A new four-lane running track
- ▶ Areas of shade
- ▶ Site-wide greening

The local community helped to shape these award-winning plans (*vision pictured left*) – which will see the garden gain a new sustainably built and run building alongside upgraded sports facilities. With indoor toilets and sports spaces, we will be able to greatly maximise our hire income at the site. This in turn will allow us to develop more events and sports sessions for people and groups who are sometimes excluded from these kinds of activities.



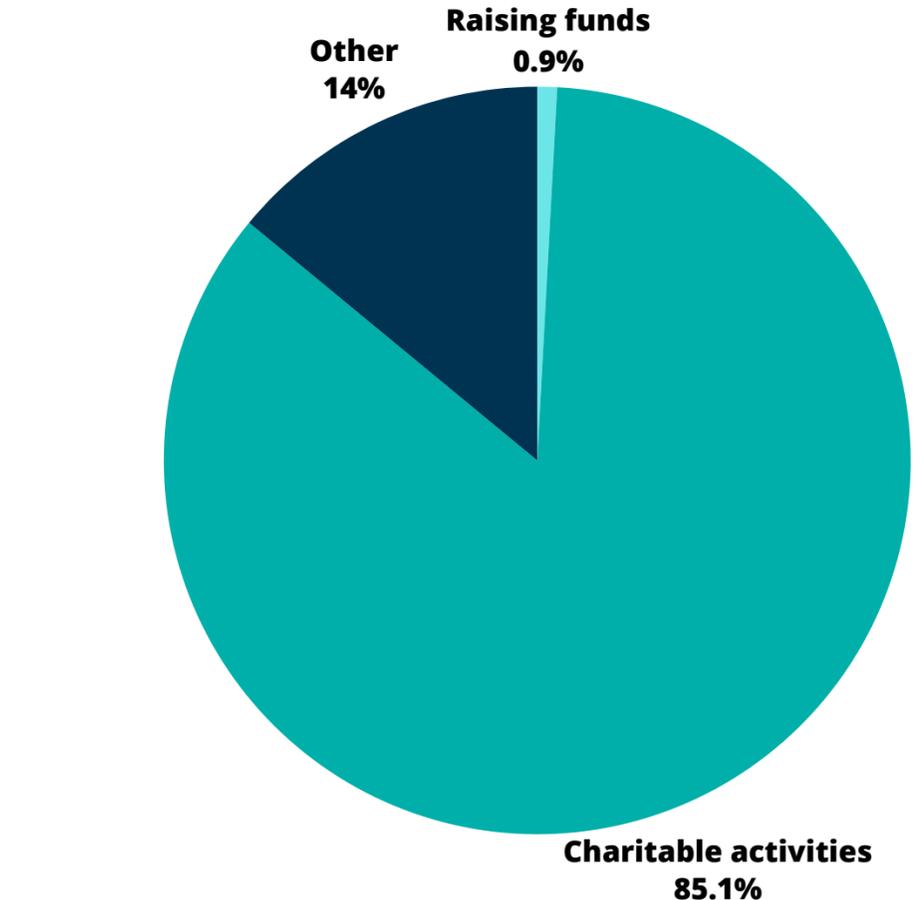
2022/23 financials

Income - £1,654,197



Donations and legacies	£126.85k
Charitable activities	£759.19k
Other trading activities	£767.93k
Investments	£228
Other	£0

Expenditure - £1,227,058



Charitable activities	£1.04m
Raising funds	£10.48k
Other	£172.15k

Note: 22/23 income total includes multi-year grants to be spent in subsequent years.

“I’m helping to beautify London. It’s been such a positive experience!”
 – Regular volunteer 2023 –





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