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Creating Thriving Communities

A Permaculture Approach

Permaculture is an ethical framework used to design regenerative systems at all scales – from home and garden to community, farm and bioregions.

We live in a time of great uncertainty and unfolding crises with the social, environmental and economic failures of the current system being cruelly exposed by rising inequality, social division, increasingly precarious and insecure employment, loss of biodiversity, accelerating climate change and the inability of an increasing number of people to meet their basic needs for good food and housing.

In this project we are exploring how people across Britain are working to create thriving communities!

www.permaculture.org.uk



**NATIONAL
LOTTERY FUNDED**

Hyde Park Source Leeds, West Yorkshire

Community: Working with the local community general to improve the mental and physical well-being of residents through improving the local environment.

www.hydeparksouce.org

Overview

Celebrating 20 years, Hyde Park Source started out in LS6 and have now branched out to deliver projects across Leeds. They work with local communities to improve their surroundings, designing and creating attractive, exciting, safe and useful places for people to live, work and play.

Permaculture

Hyde Park Source is a permaculture Learning And Network Demonstration (LAND) Centre and you can visit to find out how they use permaculture in their work.

They complete permaculture designs for new sites and implement permaculture in their work setting up and maintaining spaces. HP Source have created their own [Principles and Pathways](#) inspired by permaculture as well as a [Design Process](#), which helps them to ask the right questions and create sustainable designs for their projects. They also share their designs and design processes on their website [here](#).



People Care

One of the central aims of the project as a whole is improving health and wellbeing for local residents. They design with and for local people and share their designs online meaning others can also learn from their approach.

Earth Care

Hyde Park Source has synthesized the permaculture principles and the 5 ways to wellbeing to create their own principles to work with people and the land they are on. They are based on the following: To connect, be active, take notice, keep learning, give.

Fair Shares

In order to connect to communities around them HP Source actively works with the marginal - people and places on the edges – harnessing creativity and inspiration. Their approach is a detailed consideration of how they can use the permaculture principles and the 5 ways to wellbeing and you can read it [here!](#)

Outcomes and monitoring

Hyde Park Source delivers projects across the city and with a variety of organisations, so they ask people to offer testimonials of their work, which you can see on their website. Hyde Park Source website also has a section for volunteers to give feedback and contribute to being a case study for the project. In this way HP Source has a number of case studies they can share with the public. They also have examples of their design work and projects they can share with others, again available on their website. With funding from various sources HP Source has to document outcomes and monitor their projects to report back to funders.

Case Study: Cross Green - Growing Together

Hyde Park Source worked with Cross Green Community Group and local residents to transform an old railway bridge into a bountiful community garden and develop food growing around the Cross Green Estate.

They have also moved onto a new site on Back Cautley Road, installing a large polytunnel, which will act as a growing hub for the local community. In the next phase of this project they are developing a 'healing garden' with a pizza oven, chicken coop and sensory garden.

People can come along to learn how to build raised beds and planters and about general food planting, such as what to plant, where and when.

They also then learn to cook and eat the food we have grown together and run regular gardening session, which bring the community together!

