

Willow Gardens is an ideal pathway to support and develop Green Social Prescribing and outdoor volunteering

What happened

Gifted to the community by Bassetlaw District Council, Willow Community Gardens was identified by a Social Prescriber as a safe space to take dementia patients to talk and relax following discussions with one of the GPs that this would be helpful.

In 2022, the work that has taken place has spanned Social Prescribing, Volunteering and VCSE Group Support resulting in a beautiful accessible community garden at the heart of Manton which can now be used by residents and patients supported by Social Prescribing Link Workers.



Group Member Quote



quote coming soon from
Worksop College about
their volunteering
experience



How we helped

BCVS Volunteer Coordinator connected the space to Worksop College students after they college expressed an interested in wanted to take the sixth formers out on some community work outdoors. The young people subsequently built a sensory area for disabled individuals to enjoy as well as helping to build the ground up and tidy up the whole garden to make it safer for all people to use. An open garden event took place in April 2022 with the objective of raising awareness of the space as well as hoping to recruit some volunteers for future projects and activities.

NCS students also engaged with the space as part of their volunteer work and helped to build paths as well as generally labouring and gardening work.

Plans for the future include a campaign to recruit a team of volunteers and trustees that will be passionate about moving the project forward as well as BCVS supporting in a funding bid to purchase a container that can be used as an indoor classroom/dry space.

Key outcomes and impact:

- ✓ Young People from Worksop College and NCS volunteered at the gardens to engage with the local community in an active outdoor space.
- ✓ A horticultural course takes place in January 2023, free of charge, to enable people to make the most of their gardens and/or allotments.
- ✓ The garden is now a fully functional and accessible community space that can be used as a green social prescribing pathway that a variety of local people can benefit from.