

Reclaim the Beds Design Competition

Background Information

- BOSF (Birmingham Open Spaces Forum) is a volunteer-led network of the friends of parks and open spaces groups across Birmingham. Set up 4 years ago BOSF now has more than 100 groups as members from parks, playing fields, allotments and cemeteries – any space that a local community uses for leisure and pleasure.
- The city's rose and shrub beds have suffered from terminal decline for many years - the victim of climate change, cost cutting and skills reduction
- There are at least 300 beds that need improvement across Birmingham
- Updating a shrub bed is ideal as a first project for a new friends group and is a great way to involve a local community in their open spaces

How it's going to work

- BOSF and Birmingham City Council are running a high profile competition to design a template to replace the old beds with modern, low-maintenance, sustainable planting suitable for our 21st century climate and lifestyles.
- The design will be suitable for friends groups – probably with minimal horticultural knowledge and experience - to plant and maintain.
- This will be a project that shows what the tri-partite partnership of city, contractors and users can achieve.



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- Friends groups will be offered: - training via Kings Heath Horticultural School, a shopping list of plants and tools, a template for planting and advice on fundraising for their beds.
 - We hope that plant suppliers will come on board and support the project with deals for groups buying the plants.
 - This is an ideal first project for a new friends group just getting started and is a great way to involve a local community in their open spaces

Outcomes

- new recruits into horticulture training to help fill the skills gap
- investment in open spaces with funds raised by the community
- cost savings on beds maintenance
- a catalyst for community development
- a project that will show Birmingham finding novel solutions to problems that impact on cities across the country
- a huge improvement in the landscape of many of the city's open spaces

Entering the Competition and Prizes

- Read the rules below
- Produce a design and plants list that meets the aims of the project
- Submit your design by the closing date – 11th December 2009
- The winner will be announced during the 2nd week of January 2010
- The winning design will win £500 of vouchers from [Akamba](#).
- The winning design will be used to plant up the empty beds in Birmingham's parks.



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Design Aim:

- To create a design to replace Birmingham's park's empty shrub and rose beds with a planting scheme that can be maintained by community groups.

Competition Rules

1. Theme - Low Maintenance and Sustainable Planting.
2. Applications must be accompanied by a 100 word description on how the border reflects the theme and how the bed will meet the competition aims.
3. The planting schemes must be able to be managed, long term, by people with little or no horticultural knowledge or experience.
4. The planting scheme must take into account the limited budget available to community organisations.
5. The planting scheme is to be a template that can be replicated, across the city, in all soils and all positions.
6. The planting scheme should (with minor adjustments) be usable in island formats and beds with backs.
7. Plants used in the display should relate to good horticultural practice, in terms of plant association, year-round impact and sustainability for the duration of its life.
8. The overall size of the bed should be 5 by 3 metres.



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Closing Date: 11th December 2009

Please send entries to:

Horticultural Training Centre
Kings Heath Park
Vicarage Road
Kings Heath
Birmingham
B14 7TQ

Horticultural enquiries to: mike_hinton@birmingham.gov.uk

Community enquiries to: info@bosf.org.uk or 451 2336



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