



## Case study: Meersbrook and Heeley Community Gardens Map

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### Name of project or group

Meersbrook and Heeley Community Gardens Map. Quotes by Judy Stewart, October 2021

### What actions for nature did your group want to take and why?

“Community gardens turn otherwise grey spaces into places that are beautiful and well maintained, safe, and interesting in their own right. Everybody who looks after or visits them learns something. They inspire intergenerational conversations and help people take action in their own gardens”.



### What resources or support did you use?

Fourteen community gardens in Meersbrook and Heeley got together to develop a walking trail map to encourage people to be active by visiting and/or volunteering. The map was funded by Move More Sheffield and Heeley City Farm and designed by Alex Batten.

### How did you empower or involve others?

“There’s a role for everybody. Some people are gardeners, some are communicators and facilitators, some are litter-pickers. We all have different levels of knowledge.”



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For example, Kent Road Ground Force is a reclaimed gennel between two suburban streets. “This was just a dumping ground. We did community workshops to decorate bollards. We see a lot of foxes using this as a route through.”



Behind B&M Bargains on Chesterfield Road is Anne's Community Garden; featuring murals by Carfield Primary School children and members of the community gardening group and a notice board headed: “Anne's Community Garden. Est 1995. Cherished and Sustained by Volunteers”. In the shadow of industrial units and tucked beneath a railway bridge, the steep verges are covered in plants. Some of these were planted by a community group for vulnerable women who wanted to make a difference as part of a course, but most were planted by Judy's community garden friends. The gardening and litter-picking efforts of the volunteers make it a welcoming space to travel through.

### How did it make you feel?

“What I love about the gardens is they're all so different. They all have a different history and focus and were started by people with a range of interests.”

“I remember talking to one young person who was passing by our garden. She normally spent time either at home, work or the gym – she was astonished to find these green places being cared for by volunteers in the neighbourhood.”





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What changes have there been as a result of your actions?

From the tiny Pocket Pond to the more structured dementia-friendly Valerie Garden at nearby Heeley City Farm, all the spaces provide places for wildlife and people to thrive in the heart of Sheffield.

Download the map here: [www.movemoresheffield.com/communitygardensmap](http://www.movemoresheffield.com/communitygardensmap)

