

Redbridge community gardening

Risk assessment form

Description of the activity:	Community gardening	Location:	
Name of person completing assessment:		Signature:	
Date of this assessment:		Date of signing:	
Date of review:			

Nearest hospital:	
King George Hospital Barley Lane, Goodmayes, Ilford IG3 8YB 0330 400 4333 or call 111	Whipps Cross Hospital Whipps Cross Rd, Leytonstone, London E11 1NR 020 8539 5522 or call 111

Appointed first aiders	

First aid kit location:	

Redbridge community gardening

Risk assessment form

What is the Hazard	What is the Risk	Who is at Risk	Controls in Place	Checked by (name)
Structures, wiring and cabling near or on site	Structures falling Injury	Gardeners and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all structures on site are safe such as manhole covers, cable boxes, telegraph poles. • Please take care to ensure that cabling and wires are not disturbed or dug into. 	
Glass and debris on site	Wounds, cuts and bruises	Gardeners and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure you always wear gloves and correct footwear. • Ensure correct litter picking protocols are followed so the site is clear of glass and debris. • All groups to have a first aid kit on site. 	
Traffic near verges	Being hit or injured by passing vehicles	Gardeners and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If working near traffic, ensure you wear high vis clothing • Ensure safe and appropriate footwear is worn • Gardeners should only work when there is sufficient light to see clearly (daylight or artificial light). 	
Working at height	Falling from height Injury Trips and falls Cuts and bruises	Gardeners and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure safe and appropriate clothing and footwear is worn • Only climb onto a site if you are competent to do so • Ensure site is safe and stable 	
Tools	Injury Trips and falls Cuts and bruises	Gardeners and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools to be correctly maintained and safe to use. Children should only use tools when allowed to do so by a responsible adult and always closely supervised. • Gardeners should keep tools they are using in a safe place where the public or other gardeners will not trip over them • Long-handled tools should be “planted” (pushed into the ground) when on site to avoid accidents caused by people stepping on them • When not in use all tools will be stored safely in a clearly identified ‘Tool stop’. • Gardeners using tools should have sufficient working space to reduce the risk of accidents. 	

Redbridge community gardening

Risk assessment form

Lifting	Injury Strains and sprains	Gardeners and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use correct lifting techniques (back straight, knees bent). Individuals will take responsibility for any back or muscle problems they may have prior to gardening and avoid exacerbating these during gardening activities. • Children and adults are not to overfill wheelbarrows where in use. • Do not lift heavy objects without help. • Use a trolley to transport materials. • All equipment should be appropriately maintained and checked prior to use. 	
Weather conditions	Heatstroke Sunburn Hypothermia High winds Poor light conditions	Gardeners and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gardeners should wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions, in hot weather to bring water and sun hat/shade/sun block 	
Plants and trees				
Plants	Poisoning if plants are eaten	Gardeners and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any toxic plants should be identified and removed, or if that is not possible/ appropriate, those working in the garden should be warned about them. • Plants identified as invasive, in accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 are not to be planted. • Supervise children and vulnerable adults always, especially if they are inclined to eat plants. • Gardeners must not eat any plants from the garden unless they are competent to identify potentially harmful plants in their garden. • Only safe and edible plants are to be planted within vegetable plots • Roots of trees and large shrubs are not to be severed, as this may cause instability for the plant and risk failure 	
Trees	Injury from falling branches	Gardeners and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure trees are structurally safe especially when working around or under them. Loose branches etc can cause injury. 	

Redbridge community gardening

Risk assessment form

Fallen leaves	Cuts and piercing due to litter within leaves	Gardeners and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If leaves are to be collected for making leaf mould check the area in advance to make sure there are no hazardous objects such as syringes/ broken glass/ sharp items buried amongst leaves. • Wear gloves when collecting leaves or use leaf grabbers. 	
Soil				
Soil and unintended animal manure from cats, dogs and foxes	Tetanus E-Coli Leptospirosis (Weil's Disease) Toxoplasmosis Toxocariasis Bioaerosols Skin Irritation Soil blowing into eyes	Gardeners and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If leaves are to be collected for making leaf mould the area will be checked in advance for hazardous objects such as syringes/ broken glass/ sharp items buried amongst leaves. • Leaf rakes will be used to collect leaves in a pile and then they will be picked up. Gardeners will wear gloves and if possible, use leaf grabbers. • Avoid using loose compost and digging/raking soil in dry and windy conditions. 	
Homemade garden compost	Infection from airborne particles, flies, vermin (When lifting and transporting the compost or when turning the compost heap)	Gardeners and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compost, brown and green waste will be placed in a suitable compost heap or compost bin and kept damp. • Food waste should not be added as this attracts vermin. If vermin are a problem a sealed tumbler type compost bin can be purchased • Gardeners handling homemade compost should wear gloves and cover all cuts or abrasions with waterproof plasters. • Reduce risk of air borne particles (bio-aerosols) by damping dry compost or mulch, but not so much that it becomes wet and prone to splashing. 	
Animals and insects				
Animal manure e.g. farmyard manure from stables and farms.	Infection from various micro-organisms such as: Tetanus E-Coli Salmonella Leptospirosis (Weil's Disease)	Gardeners and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manure should be kept damp and spread gently. Do not use or spread manure when very wet as this can cause bacteria to splash e.g. bioaerosols. • Gardeners should avoid eating or drinking until hands are washed. Antiseptic gel is ok only if soap and warm running water are not available 	

Redbridge community gardening

Risk assessment form

Bees, wasps and Insects	Stings	Gardeners and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of any wasp or bee nests and avoid these areas. • Gardeners who are highly allergic to stings should take the necessary precautions. 	
Chemicals used in the garden	Inhalation Irritation to skin or eye	Gardeners and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No chemicals are to be used in community gardens. • Adopt an environmentally sensitive approach to the garden. 	
Plant supports	Damage to the eye	Gardeners and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If canes or twigs are used as plant supports, cane toppers will be placed on the top. • The canes/twigs will be made as tall as possible so they are above eye height. 	
Water butts & hoses Slips	Trips and falls Water borne bacteria Legionella and other infections	Gardeners and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water butts should be child proof, secured on a stable surface. • After using water from water butts, gardeners should wash their hands. • Water butts should be kept in a cool position as far as practically possible. If not, consideration will be given to insulation or light reflecting paint. • Water should be emptied out of full hoses after use. (Full hoses left in sun or warm conditions may breed micro-organisms such as legionella). • Hose pipes should be coiled/rolled up after use and not left lying out. 	