

About Railway Gardens



What is Railway Gardens?

- Railway Gardens is a community space in Splott, Cardiff.
- It was created by Green Squirrel CIC with local people.
- The land was empty and unused, but now it has;
 - gardens and wildlife areas
 - work pods
 - a kitchen, and;
 - spaces for play and events.



Who is involved?

- Green Squirrel CIC
- Cardiff Council
- Community Land Advisory Service
- Social Farms and Gardens
- Local residents, schools and community groups
- Advisory group members
- Keep Wales Tidy, The Boneyard



What has been done?

- Hundreds of residents shared their ideas through **meetings, surveys, and activities.**
- The community named the site 'Railway Gardens' and designed the logo.
- During delays, people kept involved with **plant giveaways, litter picks, and competitions.**
- Since opening in 2022, the site has hosted **growing groups, skill-sharing, and social events.**



Looking to the future

Green Squirrel are thinking about:

- 🐿️ **Their role** – What Green Squirrel's job should be at Railway Gardens in the future.
- 🌱 **Building skills** – How local people can learn new skills and feel ready to help run the project.
- 🤝 **Sharing power** – How more decisions can be made by the community.
- 💡 **Listening well** – How to make sure the project always meets community needs and does not drift away.
- 💰 **Money matters** – How the project can pay for everyday costs and not rely too much on grants.
- 🏠 **Working together** – How to work better with local partners



What has changed because of Railway Gardens?

- People say Railway Gardens has brought new life to the neighbourhood.
- Volunteer and community groups have grown and brought people together.
- Local needs are being met (green space, skill sharing and reducing loneliness).

What is co-production?

In a nutshell, co-production is when professionals work together with people who have lived experience, to develop solutions to challenges in public services and communities.

Why is this co-production?

It is already strong at:

- ✓ using community strengths
- ✓ building good relationships
- ✓ focusing on outcomes that matter to people
- ✓ creating networks of support
- ✓ recognising people as changemakers

- Railway Gardens exists because the community has been involved at every step.
- Even with many challenges, Railway Gardens shows that trust, patience, and working together can create lasting community spaces that meet local needs.



If you'd like to find out more about Railway Gardens get in touch with Becca - becca@greensquirrel.co.uk



green squirrel



Rhwydwaith
Cydgynhyrchu
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Co-production
Network
for Wales

Developed & Designed by Dan Barnett

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Have a good case study example? Want a translation of this case study? Get in touch: hello@copronet.wales. For more tools & resources to support your co-production journey, including guidance for working with people in a wide range of settings, visit our website: copronet.wales