



Royal
Entomological
Society

Questions for Potential Environmental Education Partners for Royal Entomological Society garden



Our charity

The Royal Entomological Society is a global charity with a vision to **enrich the world with insect science**.

The Society is seeking an entomological education partner to operate in the RES Garden at [Stratford Cross](#), East London for many years to come.

The RES garden in East London was originally designed for the [RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2023](#) by Tom Massey with generous funding and support from Project Giving Back.



Key Requirements

The educational partner will have exclusive use of the RES garden lab for education. As part of this the RES would ideally be looking to:

- Maximise learner opportunities
- Work with us to explore external funding opportunities
- Understand how the provider may be able to support disadvantaged local schools with a sustainable financial plan
- Deliver a programme of new entomological and related topics
- Deliver opportunities for public engagement and with local businesses and tenants of Startford Cross



The garden habitats

The garden has habitats for insects including dead wood, in the form of a specially designed tree sculpture made of cross sections of a tree trunk, and dead wood piles filling gabion frames that are used as part of the boundary walls.

Rammed earth floors and walls, which invite boring insects to create nesting places and hideaways. Hoggin pathways, which are fully permeable, allowing insects to freely access all parts of the garden and the earth it has been created on.

Piles of rubble, which are packed into gabion frames to allow insects (and other valuable garden wildlife) to shelter and hide.





The garden planting

The planting scheme has been designed for insects, with a mix of native and non-native plants that provide a wide range of food sources for pollinators and other beneficial insects.

The front of the garden features drought resistant planting representing those typically found on brownfield sites. Some of these common plants may be considered weeds e.g. dandelions, clover, vetch and knapweed, but they play an important role for insects.

Behind the lab, naturalistic planting evokes meadows at the edge of native woodland, rich in insect life. Trees in the garden are also important for insects including hawthorn, silver birch, Scots pine and hazel.



The laboratory

The garden has an outdoor laboratory for entomological education and research. The lab takes visitors down into the landscape, offering an 'insect's eye view' and a space in which to study.

A moveable projector screen links to microscopes in the lab, giving the opportunity to show insects at magnified scale, revealing their fascinating morphology and offering opportunities for education.

The lab's roof structure is inspired by a compound insect eye and will provide 'modules' permeable to insects, providing an accessible opportunity for on-site research, study and identification.



Working with us

The RES is keen to secure an LOTC Quality Badge holder education partner to provide sessions for school groups.

The garden is located in the Borough of Newham, an area with the least publicly accessible green space per person of any London borough. The Society is engaging with the local community and aims to have some focus on local schools and education providers.

The exact lease terms would need to be negotiated, but a longer lease length (5-10+ years) is preferable. Maintenance costs and utility costs would need to be paid by the educational partner.



Within your proposal, please ensure you address the following themes and questions:

1. What is your organisational vision and how does this align with the vision for the RES Garden
2. Please tell us about your experience of running entomological education programmes and other community engagement activities.
3. Schools work
 - How many schools sessions would you envisage running here a year?
 - How long would it take to build up to this level of activity?
 - What mix of primary/ secondary/ special schools would you envisage?
 - What accreditation do you have for this level of activity?
4. Other activities
 - What activities would you run other than schools work?
 - Eg Volunteering, community days, family activities, holiday programmes, adult learning, corporate team building days?

Within your proposal, please ensure you address the following themes and questions (cont.):

5. Is there any area of work you would want to have a focus on operating within the garden?
6. What financial model would you operate and what confidence do you have of its sustainability?
 - Ideally, the RES is looking for a partner who could continue to deliver environmental education in the RES Garden from Spring 2024.
7. What lease length and break clauses would you envisage working for you?
8. Complete a SWOT analysis for your organisation working with RES (Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats)
9. What questions do you have for the RES?



Royal
Entomological
Society

Thank you

Please send your proposal to
luke@royensoc.co.uk by 12 May 2024