

AWARD: Green space

The incorporation of green space can transform how users interact with their environment and the impact it has on its surroundings. Green space has a proven physical and mental health benefits for patients and staff, helping to improve recovery times and supporting population health.

This award will showcase an organisation that can demonstrate it has contributed to the creation, maintenance and access to high-quality green space, either onsite or in the community, for the purposes of improving health and wellbeing or to create a healing environment. Green space can be of any size or type from small courtyards to whole site approaches, the importance is impact and replicability.

This could include a wider organisational biodiversity action plan or strategy which will have assessed the impacts of the provision of its services on local biodiversity. Ideally, applicants should be a health or care organisation, although partnerships with local environmental, community wildlife and allotment groups are welcomed.

The organisation will be able to demonstrate why it has engaged with this project, what it sees at the health benefits and how the quality, access to and biodiversity of the green space is maintained. Also, we will look for evidence of whether this project is a one-off or if it forms part of a systematic approach to maintain and enhance biodiversity on site and with the local community.

As the judges mark your entry they will be looking for:

- A clear description of why your organisation/project is exemplary
- Any evidence of environmental, social and/or local economic benefits
- Lasting and replicable change
- Details of any financial savings/value
- Benefits to staff, patient or population health
- Challenges the organisation has had to overcome.