

"It is a much needed green breathing space along the river – a place of escape and relaxation for locals like me who don't have their own gardens or balconies."
Jasmine Pasch, local resident

COME ON IN

A CITY'S OASIS

Bernie Spain Gardens are a vital oasis at the heart of our neighbourhood. We need your support to transform and improve the gardens, creating a sanctuary for generations to enjoy.



Coin Street



Bernie Spain Gardens north and south, proposed Queen's Walk Gardens

SERVING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY SINCE 1988

Bernie Spain Gardens were laid out on the South Bank riverside in 1988. The Gardens are in two parts: the south park, between Stamford Street and Upper Ground, and the north park, between Upper Ground and the riverside walkway. The majority of the north park had only temporary landscaping because there were plans to build on it. Now Coin Street Community Builders, a local social enterprise, has consent to create a permanent scheme with a wide variety of trees and flowers, granite paths, lawns, and facilities for on-site gardeners.



Bernadette Spain

HAVEN

15,000 RESIDENTS. 60,000 WORKERS. 50,000 STUDENTS. 25+ MILLION ANNUAL VISITORS IN THE SOUTH BANK AREA. 50,000 ADDITIONAL WORKERS BY 2025. 26% OF HOUSEHOLDS IN BISHOPS WARD AND 12% IN CATHEDRALS WARD ARE OVERCROWDED – MOST LIVE IN FLATS WITHOUT GARDENS. Source: South Bank Partnership 2018

"The Gardens offer sanctuary and quiet enjoyment to residents and visitors alike. As well as being well used as a meeting spot, it is also a place where nature meets the city."
George Nicholson, CSCB Board member and local resident



Far left: existing south Gardens
Left: existing north Gardens

The incredible woman behind Bernie Spain Gardens

The Gardens are named after local resident and founder member of the Coin Street Action Group, Bernadette Spain (1936-84). Bernie epitomised the motto of her school – 'Women in time to come will do much'. After training as a clinical psychologist, she worked tirelessly to challenge inequality in health and housing. Bernie's work with the Coin Street Action Group in the 70s and 80s changed the entire fate and face of the area in which she lived.



Bernie Spain Gardens south

Right: riverside walkway
Below: Bernie Spain Gardens south



WHY THESE GARDENS MATTER

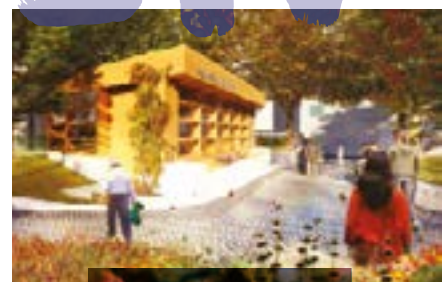
We need access to green space to help improve our wellbeing more than ever. From office workers enjoying lunch outdoors, to local school children on field trips, Bernie Spain Gardens give people a rare chance to enjoy nature in one of London's busiest areas.

Left: proposed Queen's Walk Gardens

"Bernie Spain Gardens are a great place for the community to enjoy. They're starting to show their age but they're very well used and well-loved by the community, commuters and visitors to the area."
Response from local consultation

VISION

- New trees to help improve air quality in the area
- New pollinator plant beds to attract diverse wildlife
- Better lighting to help visitors feel safe
- Improved pathways to guide people through the park
- More seating throughout the Gardens and along the riverside walkway
- Lawns to lie on
- A new pavilion with facilities for gardeners and volunteers
- New flower beds along the riverside walkway



A PLAN FOR A VIBRANT FUTURE

Our plans for Bernie Spain Gardens north and the new Queen's Walk Gardens are based on consultation with neighbours in 2016, a survey of users in 2017, a design competition in 2018, and the development of detailed designs and management strategy overseen by local residents. We were granted planning permission by Lambeth and Southwark Councils in 2019 and now can't wait to get started.

TRANSFORMING OUR GARDENS

Our priority is to improve the north part of the Gardens, which has seen the heaviest footfall and wear and tear over the years. The design competition was won by landscape architects West 8 and their 'Pollinator Garden' proposal. The designs, which focus on biodiversity, sustainability and community, were popular with our panel and local residents alike.

Left: winning design entry for north Gardens



Main image: proposed Bernie Spain Gardens north
Above right: proposed gardeners' pavilion

Proposed Bernie Spain Gardens north and gardener's pavilion

"Public green space is always a good thing. It gives communities a space of their own to gather in."
Response from local consultation

COMMUNITY

DESIGNED FOR OUR COMMUNITY

By consulting neighbours and users, we were able to identify the biggest opportunities for improving the Gardens. 70% wanted a 'better variety of planting' and 59% asked for 'more opportunities for community gardening'.

ROOM TO BREATHE

Poor air quality is a serious issue in our local area. We'll improve air quality for everyone in and around the Gardens by planting 22 new trees and making sure existing trees are as strong and healthy as possible. Trees act as natural air purifiers, absorbing airborne chemicals and releasing oxygen.

MAINTAINING OUR GARDENS

Coin Street Community Builders plan to appoint a new on-site head gardener and deputy who will make sure the Gardens stay clean, safe and looking their best year-round. They'll be based in the new gardener's pavilion and be supported by trainee and apprentice gardeners, and local volunteers.



WHERE NATURE MEETS THE CITY, AND THE CITY MEETS NATURE

As well as serving the local community, we want to give nature a place to play. With over 80 new pollinator plant species and a variety of new trees, the redeveloped Gardens will be a natural sanctuary for singing birds and buzzing bees.

POCKETS OF HEAVEN

Two new pollinator gardens filled with colourful displays of scented and pollen-rich flowers will sit at the heart of the new north park. As well as looking spectacular, they'll provide an ideal habitat for birds, bees, butterflies and moths throughout the seasons – a valuable resource for declining pollinator populations.

A NATURAL LANDSCAPE

The tree plan for the Gardens aims to give existing trees the best chance to flourish. And we'll plant 22 new trees, bringing blossom and autumn foliage to the tree canopy. This will include new species, boosting biodiversity and resilience in the Gardens' woodland areas.

NATURE



Above: proposed Bernie Spain Gardens north

All trees and plants shown in this publication feature in the designs for Bernie Spain Gardens north

"I love Bernie Spain Gardens because they're like an oasis right in the centre of the South Bank. They're a refuge for some wildlife which would otherwise have no place in the city."
Andrea Zick, local worker

SUPPORT



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Over the years, the Gardens have suffered from constant wear and tear. It's time to update the natural landscape in the north part of the Gardens and along the riverside walkway.

To do this, we need your help. We're seeking funding to cover the capital cost of delivering this vital landscaping project – and we need as much public support as possible to get that funding.

Show your support at coinstreet.org/BSG
Together, we can protect and improve Bernie Spain Gardens for future generations.