

Sustainability

**Author Saira Arshad
ECEY6005-BIRM**



Ward End Park



Evergreen trees



Discover

When I immediately step into my garden, the tall trees are hard to ignore. On closer look, I discovered a dense group of evergreen trees which create a natural boundary between my space and the back road. This was a very simple and surface level observation I made. After closely watching, I noticed these trees provide important shelter for birds and insects and act as a windbreak.

Explore

I looked more closely at how these trees grow close together and how their branches interlink. I noticed birds nesting and spiders weaving webs.

Conserve

I trim the lower branches to keep them healthy while making sure I didn't disturb any nesting animals. I also learnt how evergreen roots help hold the soil, reducing erosion and improving garden health.

Share

I took a picture and told my husband about how important these trees are for biodiversity and as a living, natural fence. I also posted it on my Instagram stories to show how trees support garden ecosystems. I hope to encourage my friends and family via social media to take more interest in nature as it has a huge impact on sustainability.

A photograph of evergreen trees in a back garden at night. The trees are illuminated by a light source, possibly a garden light, creating a contrast with the dark background. The foliage is dense and green, with some branches visible. The text "Evergreen trees in my back garden" is overlaid in the center.

Evergreen trees in my back garden

homegrown fruits and vegetables



Homegrown fruits and vegetables

Discover

In our garden we have created our own planting bed. I discovered that the raised garden bed is full of healthy leafy greens, radishes, mustard leaves and tomatoes. They're thriving and showing signs of insect activity. There are surrounding pots of mint, thyme and strawberries.

Explore

I examined the leaves and noticed tiny holes. This was evidence of insects feeding. I used this as an opportunity to learn about organic gardening and how pests can be managed without using harmful chemicals.

Conserve

Instead of spraying pesticides, I let the ecosystem balance itself. I added mulch (this included wood chips and straw) and started to water the garden bed early in the morning to reduce evaporation, making the bed more sustainable.

Share

Growing your own food and learning about how it reduces your carbon footprint is important in our house. I often get my nephew and daughter involved when doing the garden work to make sure they take an interest in it. I also share spare seeds with family and friends to encourage them to start small garden patches.

Planting in tires



Sustainable garden in action at Nansen Nursery, using rain water, natural compost, recycled tires for planting and a wheelbarrow repurposed as a plant pot.

Wheelbarrow recycle



Natural compost



Recycling bag



Rain water



Discover

I discovered that some old wooden planks and broken garden fencing in the corner of the garden could be reused instead of thrown away.



Recycling

Explore

I researched how the wood could be repurposed and realised it was still strong. I measured and cut the planks to size, then sanded them down to remove splinters. After that, my husband painted and installed them as extra shelving in one of my cupboards at home using brackets and screws, giving the wood a new purpose indoors.

Conserve

By reusing what I already had, I avoided buying new materials and reduced the environmental impact of waste.

Share

I talked to my family about my recycling project and the success I had. I have convinced some members to join a WhatsApp group where we post pictures of any leftover materials or resources we no longer need or have purpose for in hope that somebody else might need it or use it for a recycling project.



**Tandoor (Pakistani
homemade oven)**

**An example of using
extra wood for
sustainable energy
use, demonstrated here as
fuel for an outdoor oven.**





This raised bed was built using reused bricks and broken concrete slabs, offering a hands on learning opportunity about recycling and sustainable gardening practices.



Pot noodles empty pots used as planting containers, with my children we turned empty pot noodles pot into plant pot, shows how everyday items can be reused to reduce environmental impact.

i saw these gift boxes wrapped in recycled paper as event decorations. exploring this idea helped me how simple recycling efforts can inspire sustainability and reduce waste.



A photograph showing a dense growth of green ivy plants. The ivy is climbing a red brick wall on the left and a dark wooden fence on the right. A vertical wooden post separates the two structures. The ivy has small yellow flowers. The text "IVY PLANT" is overlaid in white on the right side of the image.

IVY PLANT

Discover

My discoveries continued in the back of the garden, I noticed a huge, mature tree with ivy wrapped around its trunk. On first glance, I thought the ivy looked quite pretty and admired how it was starting to cover a large portion of my back fence.

Explore

I tried identifying the tree species – it looks like ash or sycamore. I ended up sending a picture of the ivy-covered tree and fence to my Mother. She informed me that she also had the same ‘problem’ in her garden. When I asked why ivy was a problem, she told me that too much ivy might harm the tree if left unmanaged. This left me feeling very concerned for the wellbeing of the plants around the ivy.

Conserve

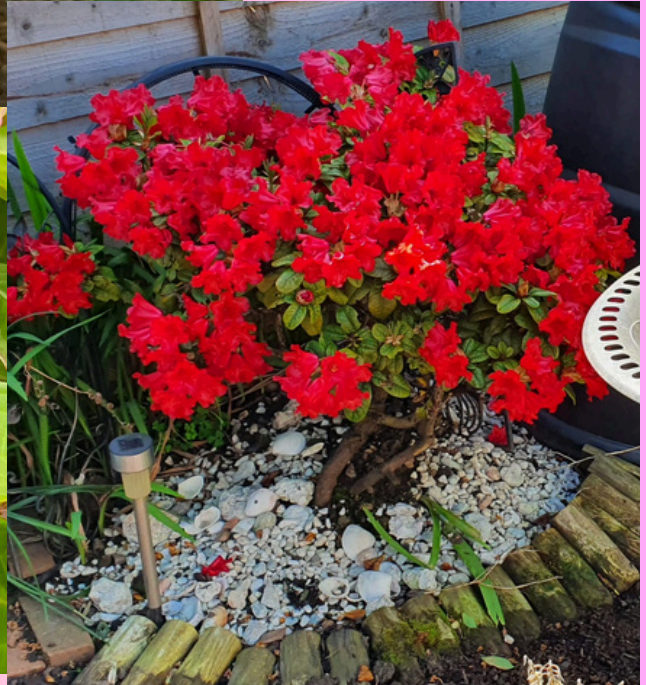
I carefully removed some ivy to help the tree breathe and prevent damage, but I left enough to support wildlife.

Share

I plan to discuss what I learned with my neighbours, especially about balancing wildlife support and tree health. I think my neighbours would benefit as they have the same trees behind their home and may not be aware of the possible harm ivy can cause.



**i see different flowers with
different colours in my
garden as a vibrant canvas
by god, each colour and
texture that reflects the
beauty of unity in
diversity and the colourful
joy of life.**



Welcoming nature's guests



I noticed more birds in the garden lately, so I added this new feature which is designed as feeder and water for birds. just in time as the weather is getting warmer.