Project 411: School Grow Back Greener Project

Client: Willow Brook Academy, Leyton, East London

Construction Details: Drainage, Ground Works, Grow Back Greener, Planting, School Improvement

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Testimonial

"Waller have always provided above-average work for the school and Trust projects. Waller are concise in their delivery from point of quotation to project close. Waller are creative in their thinking, always finding added benefits or ways to improve the school site and project even further, usually at no extra cost. There is an obvious good-will for the project and everyone involved which transcends across Waller's work which make them a joy to work with. "

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School Grow Back Greener Project

Greater London Authority introduced the Grow Back Greener Fund. The idea of the fund was to award £2m to 56 community projects to plant trees to provide shade, create and enhance green space and increase climate resilience in London. One of these projects was at Willow Brook Primary School in East London. The school had a vision to change a section of an existing tarmac playground area into a greener, more visually enticing area.

We worked closely with the School Trust's design and project manager and provided ideas to meet the schools vision. This was to be an area for pupils to enjoy during their breaks where they could appreciate a small piece of nature within the capital city.

The Works

Works started with the removal of a whole section of tarmac. The area was levelled and we worked to a design that incorporated new pathways and a mini orchard. The pathways were created using a range of different materials including blockwork, shingle, cobblestones and bark. We worked with a horticulturalist who advised on the types of plants and shrubs to be planted and thrive in the local environment. They also advised us on a range of trees to be planted to create a mini orchard.

We attached trellis to current walls and planted climbing plants, which in the future, will be a haven for insects and birds as well as a sea of colour for everyone to enjoy. We also installed planters along walls full of flowering plants which will brighten the area into a colourful vibrant area.

Although the trees and plants are still young, the area has improved the section of the playground to create a peaceful area for the students to sit and read peacefully. As the area matures within the next few years the whole area will start to look like an oasis within the city.

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