

Moving ahead Hollyhocks at Homerton station



Together with London Overground, we have been working with a community group and with a local authority grant of £16,000, to create a wildflower meadow at Homerton station.

The Friends of Homerton Station was established by local resident Sue Phillips in 2008, with the vision of creating wildflower meadows on the embankments behind the station platforms.

Following Sue's approach to our Community Rail team, we earmarked the embankments as community scheme areas. London Overground provided access gates and Carillion provided safety fences.

With all this in place the group secured a grant from Hackney Council to pay for seeds and plants, and employed a specialist company to establish the meadows. Our local maintenance team strimmed the site and applied herbicides to remove the weeds, and group volunteers, with help from the specialist company, were able to complete the soil preparation.

One embankment required sudden and urgent reconstruction at short notice just days before the weekend the group had scheduled for planting. We managed to complete the structural work to the embankment in record time and the planting went ahead as planned. We also funded some seeds and wildflower turf for the new embankment.

Planting was completed in January 2010, and with the help of Carillion, the group maintained the embankments while the station was closed for major upgrade work. By the time the station re-opened on 30 May the embankments were a main attraction.

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