



### Transforming Disaster into Opportunity and Embracing Natural Processes

In the wake of an extreme weather event, a fallen tree has caused significant damage to a beloved garden rockery, creating a unique opportunity for restoration and renewal paving the way for an innovative garden repurposing project that aligns closely with natural processes and ecological sustainability.

“Every act of creation is first of all an act of destruction.” – Pablo Picasso

The felled tree, while devastating, now serves as a central feature in the reimagined garden space, epitomizing the concept that new growth often arises from chaos. The garden's redesigned elements focus on enhancing biodiversity and creating habitats for a variety of species, including insects, birds, and mammals.

#### Key Features of the Revitalized Garden:

- **Natural Habitat Restoration:** A specimen tree, naturally occurring along with *Betula pendula* (Silver Birch), will be positioned behind the fallen tree to form a light canopy, offering both habitat and food for insects and birds.
- **Interactive Fallen Tree:** The fallen tree itself will be transformed into a natural seat, allowing visitors to rest and reflect, integrating seamlessly with the surrounding landscape. This feature will add nutrients back into the soil and provide a habitat for fungi and small creatures.
- **Water Feature:** A galvanized trough pool will be introduced to supply vital water for wildlife, enhancing the garden's ecosystem and offering aesthetic benefits.
- **Shelter and Accessibility:** Feature rocks will provide shelter for small creatures, while gravel pathways around reclaimed paving will facilitate water recharge and easy access to planting and seating areas.

- Diverse Planting for Habitat: The garden features a range of plants across three naturalistic habitats, providing larval food for various moths, butterflies, and beetles. Additionally, diverse flower types attract and support numerous pollinating species.

#### Design Philosophy:

“If a tree falls in the forest and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound?” – George Berkeley

This philosophical question prompted a reflection on whether natural processes have meaning beyond human perception, our role in nature and our impact on the environment. In response, the garden's design looks to achieve a sustainable mutual symbiosis, emphasizing that our existence is intertwined with these processes, highlighting the need for sustainable interaction with nature.

“Life, just like the stars, the planets, and the galaxies, is just a temporary structure on the long road from order to disorder. But that doesn't make us insignificant, because we are the Cosmos made conscious. Life is the means by which the universe understands itself. And for me, our true significance lies in our ability to understand and explore this beautiful universe.” – Brian Cox

#### Towards Sustainable Mutualism:

As the world faces unprecedented ecological challenges, the garden's design underscores the importance of achieving a harmonious balance with nature as we are intrinsically part of it. This project aims to demonstrate that even in the face of disaster, there are opportunities to restore and enhance our natural environment.

For further information or to schedule a visit to the garden, please contact:

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#### About The Intrinsic Link:

Jon Pilling and Magnus Steen met at Leeds Beckett University in 2017 whilst studying for a bachelor's in landscape architecture. Both had decided to retrain, Jon coming from a background in education and Magnus from a background in landscaping. During their time at university, they worked together for a garden design company Magnus as a skilled landscaper and Jon as a labourer. During this time, they became firm friends Jon learning from Magnus and Magnus becoming increasingly infuriated with Jons 'very wet' mixes.

Graduating in 2020 at the height of the Covid pandemic proved challenging. Work within the landscape design profession was understandably limited. Jon was lucky enough to be kept on by the garden design company as a design assistant and labourer and Magnus went on to manage an estate in North Yorkshire then work as a designer for a garden design company in Harrogate. By the end of 2022 both had also undertaken projects independently and felt it was the right time to strike out on their own terms.

They founded The Intrinsic Link in early 2023. Since it's inception they have completed several garden designs and interventions to a variety of briefs around Manchester, Cheshire, West Yorkshire and Stavanger, Norway.