

SPOKES *Bike Path Art*

• WHAT YOUR ARTWORK IDEA IS ... Name of idea – **Be Fruitful**

The idea is to plant areas of fruiting trees, bushes and plants on spare ground at the edges of a very long path or a network of paths. Often a vacant area can be found, and a decent length or network of paths would also offer a variety of environments (sun, shade, etc) to suit each different plant's growing preferences.

At the entrances to the path there would be a 'tastefully' designed information board listing all the types of fruit and when they could be expected to be ripe, but the board would not say where each area was – that would be up to the path user to find. The information board could be something like below [with more fruit added if possible]. There would be a picture of each fruit beside its name.

BE FRUITFUL

On this path network you can find fruit which you are welcome to eat as you pass by - or take home a modest helping for crumbles, jam, etc. All the fruit below are here - it's up to you to find out where, so keep your eyes open!

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Wild strawberries [May/June] picture | Raspberries [June/July] picture |
| Japanese Wineberry [Aug/Sep] picture | Bramble [Aug/Sep] picture |
| Early apples [Aug] picture | Elderberry [Sep/Oct] picture |
| Hazel nuts [Sep] picture | Maincrop apples [Sep/Oct] picture |

*If you like the idea of **Be Fruitful**, you might like to look here too...*

www.forestharvest.org.uk

www.commonwealthorchard.com

*If you'd like to help in looking after **Be Fruitful**, and helping it to multiply, please contact XXXXXX*

• WHERE IT WOULD GO... [*maybe a location you know, or something like 'at a path entry point'*]

Be Fruitful would suit a long path, such as Bathgate-Airdrie; or an extensive local network such as the North Edinburgh paths, between Roseburn, Leith and Cramond.

• WHY THIS WOULD BE A GREAT ADDITION TO THE CYCLE-PATH...

Local food and wild food are ideas of increasing interest, linking well with offroad paths with their semi-wild vegetation, and with the whole idea of environmental transport, of which cycling is an important part. This idea is therefore highly appropriate to an offroad cycle network.

Be Fruitful would also be likely to attract many new users to the paths, and the fact that the information boards don't specify fruit locations is intended to encourage interest, exploration and observation by users. The idea of finding, eating and collecting wild fruit appeals to people of all ages, meaning that Be Fruitful would attract everyone from youngsters to families and to older people.

The information boards, by specifying the relevant months, would give an added incentive to get looking, and would avoid disappointment for novice food gatherers who might not realise there aren't any raspberries around in February!

With the growing interest in local and wild food, it is very likely that a **support group** could be formed, possibly also with a link to the Botanics for plant interest and with Sustrans for path interest, to undertake occasional maintenance of the fruiting areas. Fruit-gathering and possibly educational events and days could also be organised, for example in conjunction with other local groups or schools. The group's contact details or a Be Fruitful website would be given on the information boards. Not only would a support group maintain Be Fruitful, but it would very likely foster a more general interest in and knowledge of the path's existence, and help ensure the general maintenance of the path.