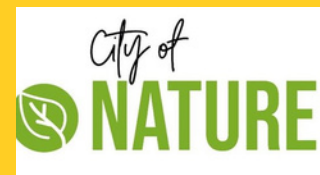




Young GREEN CHAMPIONS



Noticing Nature

"Summer, summer, summertime (Summertime)
Time to sit back and unwind
Summertime

Here it is the groove slightly transformed
Just a bit of a break from the norm

DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince



Natural Health

For children, gardening can make them feel proud and empowered to see the results of their efforts. It also teaches them patience to wait for plants to grow and resilience if things go wrong.



<https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/gardening-children-schools/family-activities/grow-it>



Learn more - in school and out

Nature can help pupils in years 1 and 2 explore the world around them and experience different types of scientific enquiries, including practical activities. Children should use simple features to compare objects, materials and living things and, with help, decide how to sort and group them, observe changes over time, and, with guidance, they should begin to notice patterns and relationships.



<https://www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/natural-curriculum>



Young and Little Green Champions

July saw a great deal of involvement from our Young and Little Green Champions across the City. I had the pleasure of being invited along for a grand tour of the Council House with Councillor Lee Marsham and Nechells Primary E-ACT Academy's Eco Council. A big thanks to Julie Goodall from the Council House for our very informative tour, and to the children and teachers for their interaction with regards to discussions about their local park and other green spaces.



During our chat in the Council Chambers the children expressed what improvements they would like to see to their local park to make them "happy" and to use their park more. The children were also keen to become "friends" of Eliot Street Park and help look after the green spaces by litter picking.

A further school visit was made to Kings Norton Nursery School alongside Scott Lee, Assistant Service Manager, BCC Street Cleansing Department. Scott and his team brought along the mobile recycling unit to demonstrate how the facility worked and a mini sweeper that helps keep the Highway clean and free of rubbish and debris.



A lovely morning was spent with the children in their Forest School Area, we discussed their local park and all the surrounding parks and green spaces that they could have fun in during the summer holiday. We thought about activities that we could do outside, and we looked at how we could plant in recyclable pots. We smelt and identified different herbs and flowers and even found a bug or two.

Please contact me at Cityofnature@birmingham.gov.uk if you would like us to visit your school in the new term or if you would like to find out more about the Young or Little Green Champion Programme.

Connect: Join Jackie for our August online chat - this month we want to talk about young people's connection to nature.



Please come and join me, the City of Nature Team and other Green Champions at our July meeting. It is online via Teams on 19th July, for an hour 5.30pm - 6.30pm.

If you receive this Newsletter by email you will already have been sent the link. If not you can book via Eventbrite to get the meeting link sent to you:

Join us for an online chat



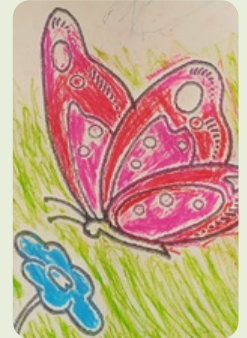
Earth Stories, Pictures and Poems

When we were bringing together the City of Nature Plan we wanted to collect peoples stories, pictures and poems about their connection to nature and the planet we live on.

We received lots of drawings from children that showed the good and the not's so good side of parks and green spaces.

We would love to receive any drawings or pictures of craft and art projects that children have create over the summer.

Or any stories or poems or recordings. You can send them to us at Cityofnature@birmingham.gov.uk and we will share them on the Naturally Birmingham website in September.



Your local Park - Play and the Planet

Find your local park here:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/directory/9/parks_playgrounds_and_open_spaces_in_birmingham



"Every parent knows that play is essential for children's well-being, happiness and development. Nature-based play is particularly important as it allows children to explore freely, use their imagination, and interact with other people, plants and animals. A connection with the natural world is associated with a range of mental and physical health benefits, and teaches children to appreciate the natural world and respect the environment. Children need nature, and nature needs children who will grow up and value the resources, services and amenity it provides.

This intimate relationship between people and our planet is at the heart of sustainable development yet in cities it can often seem very distant as our day to day lives are typically shaped more by the built environment rather than by the natural environment" *Jo da Silva Global Director of Sustainable Development, Arup (Nature-based Play: Fostering connections for children's wellbeing and climate resilience. London: Arup, 2022)*



The Hole Story




"Nobody cares about an old tree like me", he said
'I'm no use to anyone any more. I've got an old,
knotty trunk, twisted branches and I have an ache in my fork,' he sighed.



At the fork in his trunk, where two great branches met, rainwater had collected over the years. It soaked through the bark and made the wood soft and damp.



But some things in the forest liked old, damp wood. Fungus did and it started to grow in Ash's old, aching fork. It sent little threads, like roots, down into the damp wood. 'That tickles!' said Ash. But as the fungus got bigger, the wood began to get softer and weaker.

'Oh!' said Ash.  'I'm not sure I like this!'
It was hard to hold his heavy branch up.

Then, one wild and rainy night, there was a loud crack

Click over there

for the whole story from
the RSPB and other
stories to read together



<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-kids/kids-stories/>

50 things to do!

50 things to do before you are 5

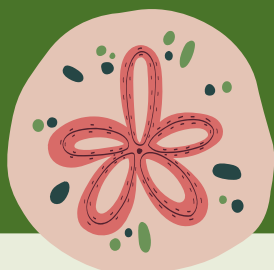


<https://www.livewellcampaign.co.uk/livewell-articles/50-things-youre-5/#:~:text=50%20things%20to%20do%20before%20you%E2%80%99re%205%201.bear%E2%80%99s%20picnic%208%20Climb%20a%20tree%20More%20items>

50 things to do before you are 11 3/4



<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/50-things>



Birmingham's Route to Zero - Future Generations

There are multiple pathways through which children are, and will increasingly be, affected by climate change. Changing and volatile weather patterns will lead to disasters, displacement, and disruption of children's lives during their formative years across the world. This narrative has children as its object, and portrays children as the victim. It makes a case for climate adaptation, with children at its centre, who will otherwise be among the worst affected.

Compelling though this narrative is, its salience has been eclipsed over the last years as attention has switched to the ways in which climate change will be affected **by children**. Since 2019, children have emerged as arguably the most vociferous and committed advocates for urgent action on climate change.

<https://www.unicef.org/globalinsight/stories/new-insights-children-and-climate-change>

<https://climatekids.nasa.gov/kids-guide-to-climate-change/>

To find out more about BCC's Route to Zero you can contact the team on:
routetozeroarbon@birmingham.gov.uk



RSPB - Wild Challenge

The RSPB Wild Challenge award scheme is a great way to get the kids outside and connecting with the nature on your doorstep. Choose from 30 fun activities that encourage families to experience and help nature together. Be inspired and motivated as you work through each level with their handy guides.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-kids/games-and-activities/activities/>

Whatever the weather!

Birmingham Open Spaces Forum worked with the RSPB to create the FINCH (Families Into Nature Connecting and Helping). The resource is a practical guide packed with helpful information for community groups. It's designed to help your group choose and offer nature-based activities for families, helping them to connect with nature and encourage action to help it.

<https://bosf.org.uk/projects/finch/resource/>



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<https://naturallybirmingham.org/>

