

GREEN CHAMPIONS



Noticing Nature

The spring is fresh and fearless
And every leaf is new,
The world is brimmed with moonlight,
The lilac brimmed with dew ... Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)



Health - Naturally

Taking photographs in nature can offer multiple health benefits. Research has shown that not only does photography help us focus on positive life experiences, it can enhance self-worth, and even reduce the stress hormone cortisol.

One of the best things about photography is its accessibility. You don't need the latest, most expensive equipment to begin. All you need is a camera, and the skill lies in the person behind it creatively composing the shots. Most mobile phones come with excellent built-in cameras. Combining nature with photography allows you to immerse yourself in the beauty and tranquillity of the natural world. This connection to nature can have a grounding and calming effect, promoting overall mental wellbeing.



Learn more about - Bird Song

International Dawn Chorus Day 4th May:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/news/the-dawn-chorus-all-you-need-to-know-about-natures-big-show>

Have you ever heard a sweet serenade but you're not sure which species was singing it? You can use the tips in the RSPB's Birdsong Identifier to help you to recognise some of nature's greatest songsters.

Learning songs can be tricky, but we're sharing a few anecdotes to improve your musical memory. You'll also get a breakdown of some context – the 'whats', the 'whens' and the 'wheres' – which will help to further your avian investigations:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/identifying-birds/bird-song-identifier>



City of Nature Programme update

The Future Parks Accelerator Project funded by National Lottery Heritage Funding has come to an end. However as we step into May, nature is in full bloom—and so is the City of Nature Programme of projects being delivered across the city by Birmingham City Council, it's Alliance of partners and communities. Here's what's been happening and what's coming up:

Greener Spaces, Healthier Places

We've seen great progress across greening initiatives for the city. Newtown's Burbury Park is the new home for The Zephaniah Forest: a 65-strong conglomerate of poetry-tagged, community-consulted, and communally planted trees, to commemorate the life and works of Benjamin Zephaniah – 65 trees for the 65 years of Benjamin's inspirational life.

<https://birminghamtreepeople.org.uk/trees-in-birmingham/the-zephaniah-forest/>



This month, we're focusing on native wildflower planting to support pollinators and boost biodiversity. Keep an eye out for new "pollinator patches" in key urban areas creating buzzing parks across the city. Patchwork Meadow <https://www.thepatchworkmeadow.co.uk/> is a small voluntary organisation that started in North Edgbaston during the first lockdown in 2020. They are doing fantastic work with communities helping create pocket meadows in window-boxes, pots and planters and in gardens and streets, together creating a huge green space, a 'Patchwork Meadow' across Birmingham and Sandwell.



Nature on Your Doorstep

Pocket Parks - Four new 'Pocket Parks' are being created from underused spaces in Nechells, Balsall Heath, Tyseley and Hay Mills to provide places for residents to play, meet, cultivate plants or simply sit to enjoy nature and the outdoors. Funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the initiative which began in 2023 has already transformed several underused outdoor areas into vibrant "Pocket Parks" - small but impactful green spaces designed and planted with the people who will use them. This year the project continues, working with four community groups in East Birmingham to create urban green spaces for the benefit of local people. The National Trust has been working in recent years to improve access to nature in urban areas, partnering with local organisations and community groups to increase the amount and quality of green spaces, bringing benefits to both people and nature.



https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1548/four_community_pocket_parks_to_open_in_east_birmingham



Looking Ahead

Planning is underway for our Summer of Nature campaign in June. Expect fun family-friendly events, nature trails, and volunteering opportunities. Stay tuned for how you can get involved! Your efforts are vital in making our city greener, healthier, and more resilient. Thank you for championing nature where you live and work!

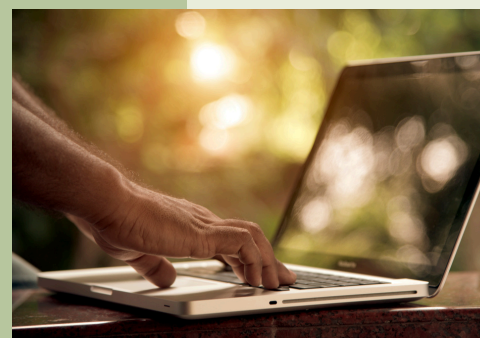
If you would like to find out more about:

- Birmingham City Council's City of Nature Plan
- Green Champions Volunteering Programme
- Young Green Champions for Schools
- The City of Nature Alliance
- Ranger Service Healthy Parks Programme

Please contact us at Cityofnature@birmingham.gov.uk



There will be opportunities to join webinars, workshops and online meetings covering a range of subjects, starting in May 2025. We will post events on Naturally Birmingham social media and email out through the Green Champion mailing list.



New Cultivating Wellbeing app from Thrive now available

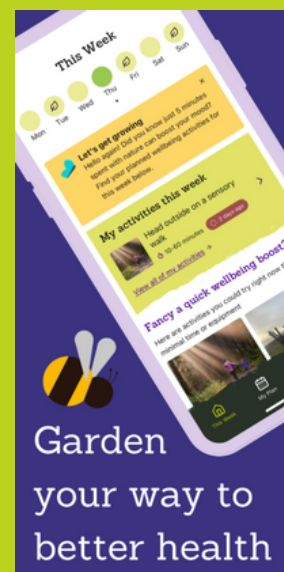
Thrive are excited to announce the new Cultivating Wellbeing app is available now from the [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play Store](#). This is the first gardening for health and wellbeing app on the digital market. It has been validated by [ORCHA](#) with supporting research from the Green Exercise team from the University of Essex.

Subscribers to Cultivating Wellbeing can create a personalised garden and nature wellbeing plan, choose from seasonally relevant activities, record thoughts in a reflection diary and get gentle motivation to keep on track.

A subscription is just £2.49 a year, with a 14-day free trial. The app is suitable for anyone age 18+ who would like to improve their health and wellbeing through time in gardens and nature, no matter your garden space or experience. Further information

- Visit the app page (<https://www.thrive.org.uk/app>) on the Thrive website

- Email info@thrive.org.uk



National Gardening Week



The focus of National Gardening Week in 2025 is new and beginner gardeners. We know that creating your first outdoor garden or starting out as an indoor 'plant parent' can be a daunting experience – so we are supporting new and curious gardeners as they start their growing journey.

From beginner gardening tips, how-to guides and videos, to a series of easy gardening challenges to help all keen gardeners to develop a lifelong love of gardening – the RHS is here to support you every step of the way. Gardening is for everyone, no matter how big or small their garden, and it doesn't have to break the bank. The best and swankiest kit can blow the budget, but with a little bit of creative thinking, you can have a garden to be proud of.

Save yourself money on your grocery bill by **growing your own** fruit, vegetables and herbs. If you don't have room for growing in the ground or in raised beds, you can also grow them in recycled **containers**. Plants such as basil, parsley and micro-greens (tiny salad crops) can even be grown in pots on your windowsill, reducing your plot-to-plate to zero.

Plant-swapping fairs and **community groups** are great places to grab bargains, pick up growing tips from experienced gardeners, and share knowledge.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/garden-inspiration/design/budget-friendly-garden>



Calthorpe Park - Outdoor Nature Explorers for Families

20th May is the next BOSF **Outdoor Nature Explorers** session for families living close to Calthorpe Park. You can join Rebecca for an hour after school to explore the park and become a young ambassador for nature on your doorstep.

There is also a chance to join in the fun on 24th June 2025 and 15th July 2025. Just email Rebecca on Rebecca@bosf.org.uk to let her know when you want to take part. Every session will be different. Please note: **children do need to be accompanied by an adult at all times.**

Birmingham Open Spaces Forum helps people of all ages to get involved with their local green spaces, finding out what kinds of wildlife makes parks their home is a great way for young people to start to learn more about nature, get active and have fun!



The poster is a colorful flyer for 'Family Outdoor Nature Explorers'. It features a light blue background with a green grassy area at the bottom. The title 'Family Outdoor Nature Explorers' is in large, bold, black font. Below it, the text 'Become a young BOSF ambassador for local nature!' is in a smaller font, followed by 'Starting Tuesday 29th April 4-5pm'. The main description 'Monthly after school nature trail for all children and their families in Calthorpe Park' is in bold, followed by the dates 'Tuesday 29th April, 20th May, 24th June, 15th July'. The poster includes several photographs: two children looking at a small object in a field, a child using binoculars, and a group of children exploring a forest. There are also illustrations of a ladybug, a butterfly, a squirrel, a robin, a crow, and a moth. The BOSF logo is in the top right corner, and the Sport England logo is in the bottom left corner. The text 'Term Time Only! Booking essential!' is in bold, followed by 'Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.' and 'Email rebecca@bosf.org.uk to sign up!'.

Family Outdoor Nature Explorers

Become a young BOSF ambassador for local nature!

Starting Tuesday 29th April 4-5pm

Monthly after school nature trail for all children and their families in Calthorpe Park

Tuesday 29th April, 20th May, 24th June, 15th July

Term Time Only!
Booking essential!

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Email rebecca@bosf.org.uk to sign up!

BOSF
Birmingham Open Spaces Forum

SPORT ENGLAND

Traditional May Day Celebrations - 1st May

Maypole Dancing

Villagers often cut down a young tree (often a birch) and decorated it with garlands of flowers and ribbons, creating a Maypole. People then dance around the Maypole, often with children holding ribbons and weaving them into intricate patterns. The dance is a celebration of spring and the arrival of warmer weather.



May Queen (and King)

A May Queen (and sometimes a May King) is chosen to preside over the May Day festivities. The May Queen is often crowned with a wreath of flowers and may be seated on a throne.



Gathering Wildflowers and Green Branches

"Bringing in the May" is a tradition where people gather wildflowers and green branches, often to decorate homes and create floral garlands. These garlands are often given to neighbours or friends as a gesture of goodwill.



Some people washed their faces in the morning dew, believing it would enhance their beauty. Probably best not to try this in your local park.

Children also went barefoot outside for the first time that year, as a sign of arrival of spring. Walking barefoot on wet grass, with care, is a great feeling.

May 12th -16th 2025 Water Saving Week

As climate change intensifies, water efficiency becomes increasingly important – spread the word this Water Saving Week.



From May 12th to May 16th, **Waterwise** is calling on every one of you to join forces and show the incredible impact we can have when we come together. Every small action matters, and when we unite, our voices grow stronger, our message reaching more.

Each day of the campaign includes three key elements:

1. Pledge Post

A downloadable social media graphic featuring the day's theme and pledge. Available below for participants to download and share.

2. Group Power Post

A daily infographic showcasing the collective impact of small actions—highlighting the power of many.

3. Hero Action

A simple yet impactful task participants can complete to save water. Available to download.

<https://waterwise.org.uk/campaign/water-saving-week/>

Endangered Species Day 2025: May 16th

Every year on the third Friday in May, thousands of people around the world participate in Endangered Species Day by celebrating, learning about, and taking action to protect threatened and endangered species. This global day of action and celebration was created and founded by David Robinson and the Endangered Species Coalition in 2006, and has continued ever since.

On Endangered Species Day 2025, wildlife refuges, gardens, schools, libraries, museums, community groups, non-profits, and individuals will hold special programs or events. People around the world participate in these activities and others. Join us in celebrating Endangered Species Day on Friday, May 16th and throughout the month of May!

The Endangered Species Coalition's mission is to stop the human-caused extinction of at-risk species, to protect and restore their habitats, and to guide these fragile populations along the road to recovery. They work to safeguard and strengthen the Endangered Species Act, a law that enables every citizen to act on behalf of threatened and endangered wildlife – animals, fish, plants, and insects – and the wild places they call home. You can find out more here:

<https://www.endangered.org/campaigns/endangered-species-day/>

We often picture big mammals like tigers, orangutans, rhinos and gorillas when we think of endangered species, but there are also endangered birds, reptiles, invertebrates and fish.

Although the most endangered species are not found in the UK we do have endangered species like those pictured here: the Hazel Dormouse, Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Scottish Wild Cat and Beaver.

In Birmingham Water Vole are our most endangered species but other animals are also rapidly reducing in numbers such as the hedgehog.

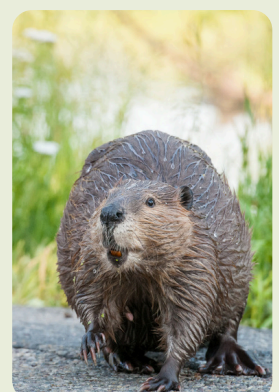
As our modern society gets more resource-intensive, natural spaces are shrinking and wildlife numbers are declining.

The WWF 2024 Living Planet Report shows the average size of wildlife populations has fallen by a staggering 73% since 1970.

While there have been amazing and inspirational wildlife successes and stories in the past, many animals are still endangered mostly due to unsustainable human-led activities.

Currently, on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list, more than 41,000 species have been assessed to be under threat of extinction.

<https://livingplanet.panda.org/en-GB/>



World Laughter Day - 3rd May

Some national or international days are a bit more unusual than others. However why wouldn't you celebrate World Laughter Day.

World Laughter Day was created in 1998 by Dr Madan Kataria, founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement. Dr Kataria, a family doctor in India, was inspired to start the Laughter Yoga movement in part by the "facial feedback hypothesis", which suggests that as well as a person's emotions having an effect on their facial expressions, their facial expressions can also have an effect on their emotions.

So perhaps by laughing you can make yourself feel happy.

The celebration of World Laughter Day is said to be a positive manifestation for world peace and is intended to build up a global consciousness of brotherhood and friendship through laughter.

It is most often celebrated by gatherings of people in public places with the sole purpose of laughing. Its popularity has grown exponentially with that of the Laughter Yoga movement and now it is celebrated worldwide.

Why not gather some friends go to a park and give it a go, you might find it is also contagious, it's never the wrong day to spread a little happiness.



National Sun Awareness Week 12th May to 18th May 2025

Sun Awareness Week marks the start of a summer long campaign to provide people with information so they can practice sun safety. Past campaigns have focused on raising awareness of the UV Index, taking a look at sun-tanning habits of British people, non-melanoma skin cancer, best practices for people to check their skin for this very common type of skin cancer, and more. Sun Awareness Week 2025 will be from 12 to 18 May 2025.

The British Association of Dermatologists Skin Health's Sun Awareness Week campaign goes out to teach the public using a two-pronged approach, providing advice on prevention as well as early detection. By teaching prevention, they aim to raise awareness of the dangers of burning and excessive tanning, and to discourage people from using sunbeds.

They also teach people how to spot the signs of skin cancer to increase the number of people who get diagnosed early.

Find out more here: <https://www.skinhealthinfo.org.uk/sun-awareness/>

The sun is generally good for you, particularly for its role in vitamin D production, mood enhancement, and potentially other health benefits.

However, it's crucial to be mindful of the risks of excessive sun exposure.



Walk to School Week - 19th May to 23rd May 2025

Walk to School Week is Living Streets annual five-day walking challenge and takes place 19-23 May 2025. This year's challenge will see pupils take on The Great Space Walk, encouraging them to travel actively to school every day of the week.

Meeting various colourful intergalactic friends along the way, pupils will learn about the important reasons to walk or wheel and its benefits for individuals, communities and the planet! You can order your classroom packs now and join the thousands of children walking to school this May. Packs are undated so you can take part at any time of the year. <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/primary-schools/walk-to-school-week/>

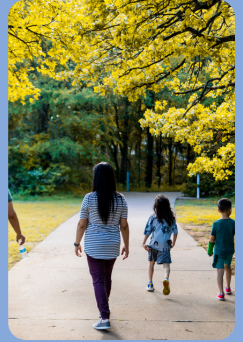
Birmingham City Council is continuing to ensure safer and healthier streets for children walking, wheeling and cycling to school.

Three new additions to its 'School Streets' initiative has taken the overall number across the city to 21.

Cotteridge Primary School (Stirchley ward), The Oval School (Garretts Green ward) and Whitehouse Common Primary School (Sutton Trinity ward) are the latest schools to join the scheme.

The School Streets programme restricts the movement of motor vehicles on roads outside schools at the start and end of the day. The aim is to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and make it safer to walk, wheel and cycle to school. Read more about this here:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1561/three_new_schools_join_birmingham_school_streets_initiative



International Day for Biological Diversity

22 May 2025

As the global community is called to re-examine our relationship to the natural world, one thing is certain: despite all our technological advances we are completely dependent on healthy and vibrant ecosystems for our water, food, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter and energy, just to name a few. This involves respecting, protecting, and repairing our biological wealth.

In December 2022, the world came together and agreed on a global plan to transform our relationship with nature. The adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, also known as The Biodiversity Plan, sets 23 targets for 2030 and 5 global goals for 2050 to stop and reverse the loss of nature in 25 years. Among its goals: restore 20% of degraded ecosystems and reduce the introduction or settlement of invasive alien species by 50%.

This International Day for Biological Diversity, under the theme “Harmony with nature and sustainable development”, highlights how this plan for nature connects with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), showing that both agendas must advance together as they support one another.

This campaign also aims to instill a sense of urgency. We must act now. By 2025, only five years will remain to meet both the near-term targets of the Biodiversity Plan and the SDGs.



Urban Nature Development - In Your Neighbourhood

To complete the UND (Urban Nature Development) project we purchased some “Little Libraries” a small selection of books for 10 primary schools and 10 Friends of Parks Groups. One of the books for children is called The Nature Trail it is a chunky board book with a poem and beautiful illustrations - a joyful celebration of nature and the wonder of the world around us by the legendary poet and performer Benjamin Zephaniah. The last verse says: *“When you have a garden, you will never be alone, and I believe we all deserve, a garden of our own.”*

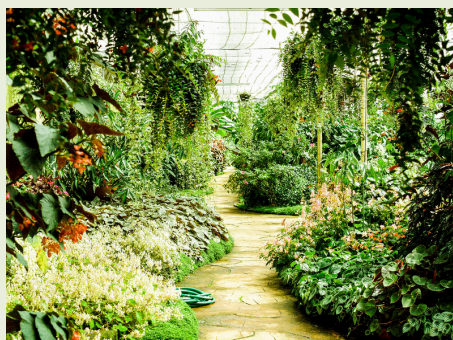
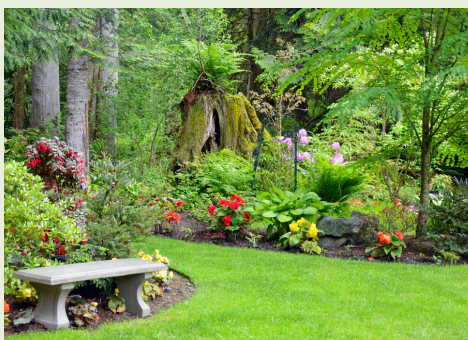
That last verse is at the heart of what the UND Project set out to do. The words in the project documents were: Master Plan, Biodiversity Net Gain, Nature Based Health Interventions and Social Impact but really all that just adds up to: A plan for how everyone can have nature on their doorstep or even more simply - a garden of their own.

What is a garden? The term “garden” in British English is often used to refer to a small enclosed area of land, usually adjoining a building. The term comes from the word for enclosure. However a common definition of the word garden is: *a plot of ground, usually near a house, where flowers, shrubs, vegetables, fruits, or herbs are cultivated. And or a piece of ground or other space, commonly with ornamental plants, trees, etc., used as a park or other public recreation area.*

It’s that more common definition that is probably the better. Gardens don’t need to be private or enclosed they just need to be enjoyed. We say “our” city, “our” neighbourhood and so a park can be “our” garden if that’s how we think of it.

The project looked at the city and tried to work out how we could all work together to ensure that everyone has a garden full of plants and wildlife in their neighbourhood as close to their doorstep as possible. We needed to find land, workout how to create gardens, find out what they should have in them, how to join them up so people and wildlife can move from one to another, how we could pay for all of the materials we needed, how to look after them and make them safe and inclusive spaces that make people feel happy.

So now we have a Master Plan for East Birmingham (as a start) of where the land is and how to connect it, and a Biodiversity Net Gain Process to help get funding to increase the plants and wildlife on the land, and Nature Based Health Interventions to help people connect with these spaces, a City of Nature Alliance of organisations to help people get involved and stay involved and Social Impact monitoring to check if all that is working. So one day if we keep going with what has been developed the belief of Benjamin’s that we should all have a garden of our own could happen if Birmingham transforms completely into a City of Nature. We just have to believe it too.



Wildlife in May: A Season in Full Song

May is one of the most vibrant months in the UK wildlife calendar. Nature is bursting with life, energy, and colour—offering countless opportunities to connect with the wildlife right on our doorsteps. Whether you're in a city centre park or a countryside meadow, there's so much to observe and enjoy this month. Find a park:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/directory/9/parks_playgrounds_and_open_spaces_in_birmingham/category/107

Birds in Full Voice

May marks the peak of the dawn chorus, as birds sing at first light to establish territory and attract mates. Blackbirds, robins, wrens, and song thrushes are among the many voices you might hear in the early hours. If you've never experienced the dawn chorus, set your alarm a little earlier—it's nature's most magical concert.

Butterflies and Bees on the Wing

Warmer temperatures mean butterflies and bees are increasingly active. Look out for brimstones, orange tips, peacocks, and holly blues fluttering through gardens and green spaces. Bumblebees are busy pollinating early flowers like bluebells, cow parsley, and hawthorn blossom.

Hedgerows and Meadows in Bloom

Wildflowers are reaching their peak in hedgerows and colouring meadows and woodlands. Red campion, cowslips, and bluebells paint the landscape. These blooms are not only beautiful—they're vital sources of nectar for pollinators.

Hedgehogs and Other Mammals

Hedgehogs emerge fully from hibernation and begin to forage more widely. If you're lucky, you might spot one in your garden or a local park at dusk. Fox cubs and badger cubs are also starting to explore with their parents, though they tend to be more elusive.

Ponds Full of Life

Ponds are buzzing with activity. Tadpoles are growing rapidly, and dragonflies and damselflies begin to emerge. If you have a pond nearby, take a quiet moment to observe—it's a world full of hidden life.

How You Can Help

- Leave a patch of grass uncut for No Mow May—it helps insects thrive.
- Keep bird feeders clean and well-stocked to support parent birds feeding their young.
- Log your wildlife sightings using apps like iNaturalist or the Wildlife Trusts' Nature's Calendar.
- Join a local green space survey or wildlife walk to learn more about your area's biodiversity.

In Nature, Every Action Counts

Whether you're planting wildflowers, recording bird sightings, or simply pausing to listen to birdsong, your actions help support the rich tapestry of UK wildlife. May is a month of renewal and celebration in nature—let's enjoy and protect it together.

Happy wildlife watching!



World Bee Day - 20th May 2025

We all depend on the survival of bees.

Bees and other pollinators, such as butterflies, bats and hummingbirds, are increasingly under threat from human activities.

Pollination is, however, a fundamental process for the survival of our ecosystems. Nearly 90% of the world's wild flowering plant species depend, entirely, or at least in part, on animal pollination, along with more than 75% of the world's food crops and 35% of global agricultural land. Not only do pollinators contribute directly to food security, but they are key to conserving biodiversity.

To raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development, the UN designated 20 May as World Bee Day.

The goal is to strengthen measures aimed at protecting bees and other pollinators, which would significantly contribute to solving problems related to the global food supply and eliminate hunger in developing countries.

We all depend on pollinators and it is, therefore, crucial to monitor their decline and halt the loss of biodiversity.

Bees are under threat. Present species extinction rates are 100 to 1,000 times higher than normal due to human impacts. Close to 35 percent of invertebrate pollinators, particularly bees and butterflies, and about 17 percent of vertebrate pollinators, such as bats, face extinction globally. If this trend continues, nutritious crops, such as fruits, nuts and many vegetable crops will be substituted increasingly by staple crops like rice, corn and potatoes, eventually resulting in an imbalanced diet.

Intensive farming practices, land-use change, mono-cropping, pesticides and higher temperatures associated with climate change all pose problems for bee populations and, by extension, the quality of food we grow.

How can we do more?

Individually by:

- planting a diverse set of native plants, which flower at different times of the year;
- buying raw honey from local farmers;
- buying products from sustainable agricultural practices;
- avoiding pesticides, fungicides or herbicides in our gardens;
- protecting wild bee colonies when possible;
- sponsoring a hive;
- making a bee water fountain by leaving a water bowl outside;
- helping sustaining forest ecosystems;
- raising awareness around us by sharing this information within our communities and networks;

The decline of bees affects us all!



Park Rangers - Green at Heart Healthy Parks

Get Active in Aston, Newtown & Nechells Parks!

Are you looking for a fun, rewarding way to enjoy the outdoors and give back to your community?

Join our Park Rangers and help care for your local green spaces—whether it's planting for pollinators, litter picking, or creating wildlife-friendly areas, your time makes a difference.

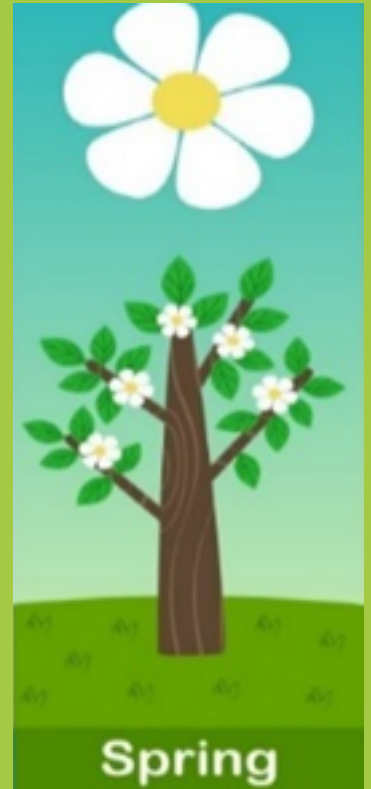
Or bring the whole family and take part in our free nature-inspired activities—perfect for all ages!

No experience needed – just enthusiasm!

Wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear.

Come along, get stuck in, and help make our parks better for both people and wildlife.

Please email Lickey.hub@birmingham.gov.uk for more information.



Aston Parks

Thurs 15th May

Park Lane Public Open Space B6 5DL

Nature recording walk (look for the bee orchids!)

11 am– 12.30

Meet by the steps

Mon 26th May

Aston Park B6 6JD

Minibeam safari Children's activity

11am – 12.30

Meet in front of Aston Hall: Front courtyard

Wed 28th May

Aston Park B6 6JD

Nature Recording Walk

11.30am- 1.30

Meet in front of Aston Hall: Front courtyard

Newtown Parks

Friday 2nd May

Volunteer site improvement session

11.15-12.45

Philips Street Park

B6 4PT

Meet by the playground

Tuesday 6th May

Spring clean litter pick

11.15 – 12.45

St Georges Park

B19 3JJ

meet by the playground

Thursday 8th May

Volunteer site improvement session

11am -12.30

Yellow Park

B19 2LA

meet by the playground

Wednesday 21st May

Volunteer Site Improvement Session

11.15-12.45

Philips Street Park

B6 4PT

meet by the playground

Park Rangers - Green at Heart Healthy Parks

Birmingham Parks Ranger Service Events & Activities



Parks in Nechells May 2025

Get active in your parks and join the Rangers: Volunteer to help improve the park for wildlife & locals or join in our free family activities. Wear suitable outdoor clothing.

Date / Activity	Time	Park / postcode	Meeting place
Thursday 1 st May Volunteer Park Improvement Session	11.00 - 12.30	Vauxhall Wharf (B7 4QS)	Meet by the notice board near Network rail entrance gate.
Sunday 4 th May Park litter pick	11.00 - 12.30	Bloomsbury Park (B7 4NY)	Meet by the play area
Friday 9 th May Volunteer Park Improvement Session	11.15 - 12.45	Sycamore Park (B6 5UJ)	Meet by the Sports court
Tuesday 13 th May Wildflower walk & litter pick as we go	11.00-12.30	Mount Street Public Open Space	Meet by the play area
Friday 16 th May Walk & water bird count	11.15 - 12.45	Salford Park (B6 7TG)	Meet at the notice board near the pool.
Thursday 22 nd May Nature Walk: Eliot Street to Salford Park and back.	11.30 start	Eliot Street Park ('Old lady park') B7 5LX to Mount Street POS along canal & around Salford Park & back.	Meet by the notice board at Eliot Street Park ('Old lady park')
Thursday 29 th May Spring break children's activity	11.30-1.30	Mount Street Public Open Space (B7 5QT)	Meet by the playground <u>for a min beast hunt!</u>
Friday 30 th May Nature Walk & water bird count	11.15-12.45	Salford Park (B6 7TG)	Meet at the notice board near the pool.



Lickey.hub@birmingham.gov.uk



Information that demonstrates the wider environmental, social, and economic value of green space through a Natural Capital Account (V1)

Birmingham City Council will:

- Quantify Ecosystem Services: Assess and assign value to services provided by green spaces, such as air quality regulation, carbon storage, water management, and pollination.
- Capture Social Benefits: Include metrics on improved public health, mental well-being, recreational opportunities, and community cohesion derived from access to nature.
- Evaluate Economic Impact: Highlight cost savings from ecosystem services (e.g., flood prevention, heat reduction) and economic uplift through increased property values, tourism, and job creation.
- Map and Monitor Assets: Continue to develop an inventory of natural assets (parks, trees, rivers, etc.) with data on condition, location, and use to inform investment and maintenance priorities.
- Integrate into Decision-Making: Use Natural Capital data to guide urban planning, land use decisions, and budget allocations—making the case for long-term investment in green infrastructure.



Earth Stories - Memories, Hopes and Happenings

May is one of the most delightful months in the natural calendar—a time when wildlife, flowers, and communities all come into full bloom. Across our city, hawthorn hedgerows are bursting into snowy-white blossom, a sure sign that spring is shifting toward summer. These blooms aren't just beautiful—they're also a vital food source for pollinators and a wonderful reminder of how nature weaves through even our most urban spaces.

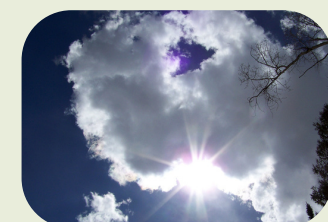
If you've spotted a clumsy insect buzzing around at dusk, you're not imagining things—it's May bug season! These large beetles (also known as cockchafer) are harmless and an important part of the seasonal ecosystem. Watch for them around lampposts or garden lights as they take their evening flights.

May is also a time to come together. Whether it's a street garden party, a picnic in the park, or a nature walk with neighbours, these gatherings remind us of the joy and connection green spaces bring to our lives. If you're hosting or attending a community event, why not add a nature-friendly twist—wildflower seed giveaways, bug hotel building, or a local wildlife quiz?

May makes me think of beautiful white lilac against dark skies and thunderstorms, I was born in a May thunderstorm, after all the drama of a storm there normally comes a fresh bright light breaking through grey clouds to reveal the silver lining.

As ever, thank you for your passion and your continued efforts to bring nature back into the heart of our city. Wishing you a bright and blossom-filled May! See you in the parks!

Debbie Needle - Green Champion
Editor, City of Nature Newsletter



Birmingham City Council Route to Net Zero

Net zero is the idea of reducing our emissions down to zero or as close as possible to prevent further temperature increases. To find out more about BCC's Net Zero journey visit BCC website:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50282/climate_change/2641/what_is_climate_change_and_net_zero/4

To keep up to date you can receive the BCC **Greener Birmingham Bulletin** by email go to :

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20179/news_and_media/201/sign_up_for_regular_email_updates_from_birmingham_city_council#:~:text=Subscribe%20to%20the%20Birmingham%20Bulletin,on%20a%20range%20of%20topics

scroll down and select the “**Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero**” option.



Natural England

Natural England have Health and Environment Lead roles to support and create connections between any Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprises, health practitioners, Community Wellbeing Roles, or local authorities interested in increasing the offer of Green / Blue Social Prescribing. To receive the West Midlands newsletter please contact: Amber.Marquand@naturalengland.org.uk

Birmingham TreePeople

Birmingham TreePeople, organise and oversee the Urban Forestry Volunteer Scheme in the city. It was originally set up as part of the Tree Council's Tree Warden Scheme by Birmingham City Council's Tree Officers in 2016, and is now one of the largest of its kind in the UK. For more information contact:

<https://birminghamtreepeople.org.uk/about-us/urban-forest-volunteers/>

Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust

Works with us for nature's recovery across Birmingham and the Black Country; protecting, restoring and creating wildlife-rich, accessible spaces that benefit people and wildlife. Get involved and find out more about their events in Birmingham and the Black Country.

<https://www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/>



BOSF - Find you local Friends of Open Spaces Group

BOSF offers opportunities for those interested in open spaces to share knowledge and experience. You can register your group to receive regular updates about funding sources, training opportunities, events in open spaces and lots of useful information. If you want to start a group to care for a green space near you they can support you to do that.

<https://bosf.org.uk/>



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