

Imagine a city where we all get together to transform where we live for nature.

From planting for pollinators in our gardens, creating space for wildlife in our parks, to influencing the space around us – we can all help to make our communities better for people and for wildlife. Together we're enhancing eight local wildlife sites in different neighbourhoods across Bristol - where plants, animals, and people can flourish, and where we can

all have the opportunity to experience the magic of nature on our doorstep, and take action to protect it.

My Wild City is...

Tooth and claw and feather and paw,
it's shade and shelter and beauty and awe.

It's buzzzz, hiss, croak and kronk,
shrrrrriek, "alright mate!", BANG, and honk!

It belongs to the fox, the badger, the fly,
your neighbour who watches the full moon rise high,
It belongs to the glow-worm, the starling, the toad,
the wildflowers smiling,

through the cracks of our roads.

It belongs to the locals sat beneath trees,
the toddlers, hunting, for bugs on their knees,

it belongs to the creatures we have yet to meet,
and to the earth, and the fungi, beneath our feet.

It's our wild city. It makes us complete.

–Poem by Alex Dommett

TOP TIPS FOR BECOMING MORE WILDLIFE FRIENDLY WHERE YOU LIVE...

1 GET TO KNOW NATURE WITH THE 5-4-3-2-1 CHALLENGE

Pop your head out of the window, stand in the garden or visit your local community green space...

Start by noticing 5 things you can see? Then slowly move to your sense of hearing, what 4 things can you hear? What 3 things can you touch? Pay attention to 2 things you can smell, do they remind you of anything? And lastly, what can you taste? This one's a little more tricky! Raindrops, the taste of fresh air...

Walk leader Jo used these prompts to get to know a very old oak tree in Lawrence Weston Moor. Jo's tip is "to touch a tree whilst keeping your eyes closed – how does it feel?"

2 MAKE YOUR OWN NATURE JOURNAL

Documenting what we experience in nature is a great way to learn more about the world around us and you can do it in a way which suits you best – whether that's drawing, making a film on your phone, taking a photograph or writing in a diary.

There are lots of wellbeing benefits to creating a nature journal too, it inspires us to be in the moment.

Local resident Mike creates beautiful drawings of Stockwood Open Space. Mike's top tip is "to keep looking, in doing so you find that nature will come to you".

3 SHARE YOUR WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

Be loud and proud and share your wildlife sightings, photos and experiences with your community.

Post in a local wildlife Facebook group, write or submit photos for a community newsletter, or create your own way of sharing. Check out www.bristolwildlifegroups.wordpress.com for inspiration.

Log your wildlife sightings and get help with ID on apps such as iNaturalist.

Send your wildlife sightings to our Local Environmental Records Centre which can help guide conservation action in the region at www.brerc.org.uk

Local resident Kelly has set-up a Facebook group for Hengrove Mounds and Hawkfield Meadows - people have shared what they've seen on site, including a spectacular bee orchid!

4 CREATE NEW SPACES FOR WILDLIFE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Did you know that if 1 in 4 people are visibly doing something for nature, that more people will see it as the norm and be encouraged to do the same?!

Whether it's a butterfly banquet box on the balcony, a mini meadow, wildlife pond, or an edible community garden, there are so many ways you can welcome wildlife into your community.

Families near to The Northern Slopes spotted hedgehogs! They are now gardening to provide them with food, nesting materials and have made wooden hedgehog houses at a community hedgehog event.

5 CARE FOR THE WILD SPACES THAT ALREADY EXIST IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

It's important to protect and look after what we already have – whether that's in our own gardens, local park, allotment, or community nature reserve. We can all take actions to support nature.

Mow less – let the wildflowers and grasses grow, creating more food and homes for wildlife.

Stop using pesticides - focus on natural alternatives by attracting natural predators like ladybirds.

Avoid tidying too much - wilder spaces with fallen leaves and rotting branches provide food and homes for lots of species including beetles, frogs, hedgehogs and birds!

Look after hedgerows – trimming hedges less (cut in January if you have to) gives wildlife a chance to eat the berries, nuts, and seeds they depend on during the autumn and winter months, and feast on buds, pollen and nectar from blossoming hedges in the spring. Trimming in January also avoids the bird nesting season.

Help care for wild spaces in your community by joining your local environment or 'Friends of Group'.

Share your wildlife friendly ideas with friends, family, neighbours, local council, housing association and grounds people.

Top tip from Avon Wildlife Trust – "All animals need 4 things to survive: food, water, shelter and a place to raise their young. Keeping this in mind can help you make decisions when creating your wildlife haven or looking after an existing space." Find more ideas and how to guides here www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/wildlife-how-guides



You can find out more about My Wild City online here www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/mywildcity.

Don't worry if you're not near to a My Wild City site – there are lots of stories and resources from local people doing brilliant things for nature across the region. Search what's happening in your neighbourhood by visiting the Team Wilder Map here www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/team-wilder or feel free to get in touch at mail@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

With thanks to Bristol-based Illustrator Persephone Coelho for beautifully illustrating and designing this leaflet. Persephone enjoys combining her love of nature with her illustration work whenever she can – "Drawing makes you look at things in a whole new way and helps you understand the world around you." See more of her work here www.persephone-coelho.com

*This leaflet uses 'What three Words' to describe site locations: enter the what 3 words provided on the map at www.what3words.com and these will direct you to the main entrance of your chosen site.



Thanks to National Lottery players