

Managing for Nature

Grassland management update

National plant monitoring training.

Woodland Restoration news

Spring pond planting

Nature Nurture Volunteer Update

Community Story - Taking action for Butterflies

River restoration news

Welcome to our summer newsletter

As summer reaches its peak, we welcome you to the July addition of the Managing for Nature newsletter. In this addition we celebrate our work alongside people across Bristol, playing a vital role in helping nature thrive. This newsletter brings together the stories, successes, and upcoming opportunities.



We are now in the second year of our grassland management pilot, creating and enhancing areas of floral lawn, wildflower meadow and tussocky grassland across the district.

A key aim of meadow creation is to reduce soil nutrient levels, which helps wildflowers thrive. One of the main ways we achieve this is through a process called cut and collect, where grass is cut and removed rather than left on site.

We have also been taking soil samples to better understand nutrient levels, particularly phosphorus. Results showed that 48% of sampled sites had high or particularly high phosphorus levels, 20% had moderate levels and 32% had low or very low levels. This evidence is helping to guide long-term management decisions.

To further improve biodiversity we have introduced native wildflower seed into selected grasslands. Four sites were oversown last year, with a further six planned this autumn, covering almost 20 hectares. Many of these seed mixes include yellow rattle, often known as the “meadow-maker”, which helps reduce grass dominance and creates space for a greater variety of wildflowers.

If you would like to know more about how we are enhancing grassland, you can watch our [grassland management videos here](#) and visit our [interactive map](#), to view and comment on all of our Managing for Nature grassland sites.



Funding secured by

WEST
OF ENGLAND

MAYORAL
COMBINED
AUTHORITY





National Plant Monitoring Scheme Training

We couldn't have asked for better weather for our National Plant Monitoring Scheme (NPMS) training sessions! A huge thank you to Neil Talbot from Avellana Ecology, who guided 23 brilliant volunteers across Blaise Estate, Oldbury Court, and Victoria Park.

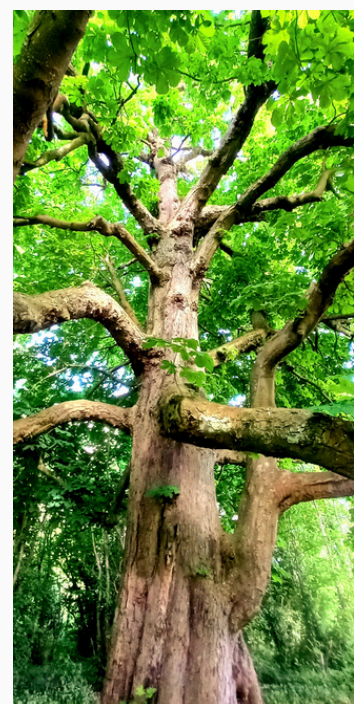
We brushed up on plant and wildflower ID, practiced botanical surveying, and mastered the official methodology to manage their own monitoring plots. We have already seen a fantastic wave of interest from attendees eager to launch plots in their local parks. Keep an eye out for these friendly faces surveying your favourite green spaces soon!

Caring for Our Canopy: Upcoming Woodland Management this Autumn

Exciting changes are coming to Bristol's woodlands as part of our Managing for Nature project.

Starting in early autumn, we will begin essential management works across Brandon Hill, St Anne's Woods & Valley, Crew's Hole Wood, and Kings Weston Estate.

Following our newly commissioned woodland management plans we will focus on thinning trees around key ecological features, removing invasive species, and creating structural diversity. By opening up the canopy, we are making room for ground flora to flourish and inviting local invertebrates to thrive.



Enhancing Our New Ponds

This spring, we've worked with volunteers to enhance our new wildlife ponds with marginal planting.

The plants will help regulate nutrient levels in the water and create important habitat for breeding amphibians and insects.

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported the pond project, from digging the ponds to planting them up. We can't wait to see them come alive and develop into thriving wildlife habitats over the years ahead.



Planting Ridgeway Playing Field pond



Funding secured by

WEST MAYORAL
OF ENGLAND COMBINED
AUTHORITY





Nature Nurture Group after a great day scything

Nature Nurture update from Roving Ranger Nicky

Spring and early summer volunteer sessions have focused on improving access to local green spaces and helping more people connect with nature. volunteers replaced wooden risers on steps at Penpole Point, cleared overgrown brambles from paths at Kings Weston Estate, and opened up routes at Saltmarsh Drive.

A group of first-year accountant trainees even celebrated finishing their exams by volunteering, enjoying sightings of butterflies using the restored paths as flight corridors.

Volunteers took part in plant surveys at Saltmarsh Drive, Lawrence Weston Moor and Stoke Park as part of the National Plant Monitoring Scheme, surveying woodland, hedgerow, freshwater and grassland habitats, they learned to identify a variety of grasses and wildflowers. At Coombe Brook Valley, volunteers clearing paths to the new pond were delighted to spot a broad-bodied chaser dragonfly, alongside banded demoiselle and azure damselflies.

Nicky has an exciting summer programme across Bristol. If you would like to join Nicky, and the Nature Nurture volunteers you can sign up on our [Can Do page](#).



"Learning to scyth was great, I was amazed how quickly we picked it up" (NN Volunteer)

Community Story - Taking Action for local Butterflies

In this addition, we shine a light on Bristol resident and Butterfly champion Susan.

Susan runs a Butterfly transect in Stoke Park, leading a group of regular butterfly monitoring walks with volunteers.

Earlier this month Hayley from the Managing for Nature team attended one of Susan's fascinating butterfly walks and talks. *"Susan's talk was inspiring, her passion for butterflies is contagious and 2 weeks on I am eagerly trying to ID every Butterfly I spot. Thank you Susan for igniting a new found respect for these wonderful creatures"*

[Read Susan's story here](#)



Funding secured by

WEST
OF ENGLAND

MAYORAL
COMBINED
AUTHORITY



River Restoration Works on the River Trym

This autumn, Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) is preparing to deliver river restoration works on the River Trym along a section of river downstream of Coombe Dingle car park.

The project aims to improve river health and biodiversity by creating new in-stream habitat for resident fish populations.

The River Trym is a small but ecologically significant urban river. It supports a diverse range of wildlife, including brown trout, European eels, otters and kingfishers. The river also provides an important space for recreation and access, with community groups, such as Trout on the Trym playing a vital role in its care and conservation.

The River Trym is a small but ecologically significant urban river. It supports a diverse range of wildlife, including brown trout, European eels, otters and kingfishers. The river also provides an important space for recreation and access, with community groups, such as Trout on the Trym playing a vital role in its care and conservation.

Following walkover surveys, BART identified that this section of river, like much of the Trym, has been historically modified and straightened, resulting in relatively low habitat complexity and limited cover for fish. The survey highlighted opportunities to increase improve habitat for fish and aquatic invertebrates and improve in-channel flow diversity.

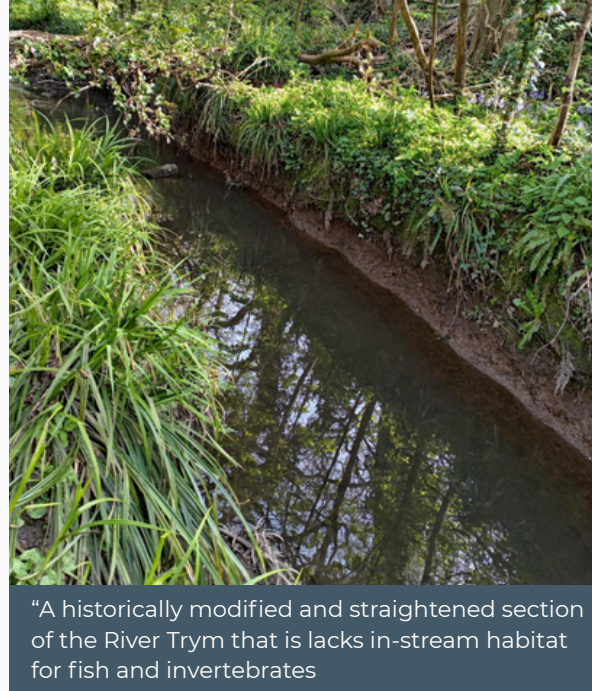
The restoration works will involve the selective felling and coppicing of small trees and the installation of in-stream woody habitat features, including hinged trees, flow deflectors and berms. These features will increase in-channel cover, diversify flow patterns and create a greater variety of habitats for fish and aquatic invertebrates.

'This habitat enhancement work by BART will be great for the wildlife in this part of our river and builds on years of clean-up efforts by local volunteers. Exciting times!' Peter Coleman-Smith, Trout in the Trym

BART is working closely with Bristol City Council and the local volunteer groups to ensure successful delivery.

For more information about the project contact BART:
info@bristolavonriverstrust.org.

Have a lovely summer everyone, we will be back with our autumn newsletter in October.



Funding secured by

WEST MAYORAL
OF ENGLAND COMBINED
AUTHORITY

