

Managing for Nature

Introduction

Around 15% of council land is currently managed for the benefit of nature, our target is to increase this to 30% by 2030

Our Green Recovery Fund project is boosting biodiversity by managing more of Bristol's green spaces for nature working alongside partner organisations and communities (funded by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority).

Our Green Recovery Fund project will:

Improve the ecological condition of existing green spaces through better management

Create new habitats that improve connectivity for wildlife and implement 'wildlife-friendly' practices across a wider area

Engage more people with their local natural green spaces, increasing contact with and enjoyment of nature

See below for more details on the different elements of the Managing for Nature project including how to get involved.

This issue:

Introduction to our Grassland Management Pilot

Working with Bristol Avon Rivers Trust to Improve local rivers

How you can get involved in volunteering Opportunities



Grassland Management

This March, we introduced new grass and meadow management regimes across selected parks and greenspaces in the city.

The aim of these changes is to allow nature to flourish, while still allowing plenty of space for recreation and access for park users.

We have installed information signs with a QR code linking to our web page where these new regimes are being implemented.

It will take time for nature to do its thing, we are helping it along by improving the soil conditions for wildflowers. We have an online information booklet that explains grassland management in detail here [how we manage our grassland for nature](#)

We have some great examples of species-rich grassland in Bristol, [Ashton Court](#) and [Stoke Park](#) estates are beautiful places to visit during spring and summer to see species-rich meadows.



Managing for Nature signs have been installed at all of our grassland management sites.

River Restoration

We have partnered with Bristol Avon Rivers Trust, [BART](#), to restore sections of the Malago and Pigeonhouse Stream in South Bristol and monitor river health in the Trym in the north of the city.

BART will be carrying out work to enhance the river corridor, with the aim of improving habitat diversity. These interventions will focus on improving river habitat to benefit local wildlife.

We are keen to work alongside communities to make this happen, and opportunities to get involved will be starting late spring/early summer. More info to follow!

Some activities include:

- Weir assessments and fish surveys** along the Trym.
- Surveys** to identify the presence and absence of fish species throughout the River Trym and Hazel Brook.
- Interventions** along the Malago and Pigeonhouse stream to improve wildlife habitats.



We are working alongside Bristol Avon Rivers Trust and communities to care for local rivers.



Funding secured by

WEST MAYORAL
OF ENGLAND COMBINED
AUTHORITY



Managing For Nature Volunteering opportunities

Introduction

Nicky joined the Parks and Green Space Service this spring as the dedicated ranger for our Green Recovery Fund project. After spending years dedicating her time to volunteering in green spaces, Nicky is now facilitating groups across Bristol to take action for nature.

"I am running a seasonal programme of activities, working with people who want to bring some love and care to green spaces across the city."

We have focussed on improving patches of meadow grassland by cutting back and clearing bramble and other invasive plants that out compete native flowers and grasses found in thriving meadows.

We aim to restore a mosaic of habitats that can support wildlife through their lifecycle. We are also surveying plants and animals to discover what's living in our local green spaces.

The volunteer sessions are a chance to learn new skills, connect with nature and other people and improve green spaces for all that live in our city! We would love to see as many people as possible getting involved in this project.

If you would like to know more, please email nicky.hodges@bristol.gov.uk or follow this link [MyImpactPage - Parks Volunteer Programme](#)

"Volunteering at nature spaces in and around Bristol has helped me regain a sense of wellbeing and purpose over the past few years. I've enjoyed getting to know different sites, developing practical conservation skills and recognition of different plants."

Quote from a
Volunteer



Roving Ranger, Nicky



Funding secured by

WEST MAYORAL
OF ENGLAND COMBINED
AUTHORITY

