

Managed Greenspaces – green lungs for wildlife!

Managed Greenspaces include town and pocket parks, playing fields, planting associated with school grounds, colleges, hospitals and developments. Domestic Gardens and Allotments are covered in a separate Action Plan. Managed Greenspaces provide formal and informal spaces for people and wildlife. However, some are highly designed and intensively managed either for recreation or amenity and may be of limited value for biodiversity. Many managers are constrained in considering work specifically for wildlife benefit, but opportunities do exist for management to be altered to encourage biodiversity. Depending on their structure, management and species composition a wide range of wildlife can be supported, especially in the suburbs. The mosaic of habitats in urban areas provides nectar and pollen sources for insects, good hunting ground for birds and bats and support common species such as foxes, hedgehogs, frogs, newts and grass snakes. Managed Greenspaces of different sizes are recognized in Green Infrastructure strategies as important areas for people and wildlife.

A local **Biodiversity Action Plan for Managed Greenspaces**, launched in 2000, recognized their importance for wildlife. This plan has been reviewed in 2007/08. Below is an overview of the main objectives and some example actions. It would be great if you can get inspired to contribute towards them

The objectives of the Managed Greenspaces Action Plan are to **assess and monitor our existing habitat, keep the extent of wildlife rich greenspaces** by designating areas as City and County Wildlife Sites. We also want to **create new managed greenspaces** through the planning system and grants/incentive schemes. Another objective is to **manage and enhance the existing greenspace areas**. A very important objective is to **raise awareness and increase access and involvement with greenspace areas**.

Examples of Managed Greenspaces actions:

- Carry out surveys of managed greenspaces
- Provide advice, support and assistance to community groups and land managers
- Designate new Local Nature Reserves to achieve the Natural England target of 1 ha per 1000 head of population.
- Encourage schools and youth groups to carry out environmental studies fieldwork in local habitats, and adopt suitable areas as wildlife areas
- Encourage the membership and community involvement in groups managing local sites
- Work with residents to improve areas of greenspace around their homes
- Encourage the public to come to and become involved in parks

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough local authorities, statutory agencies, conservation charities and the local Records Centre work together in partnership towards achieving actions outlined in the local Biodiversity Action Plans. To learn more about the Biodiversity Action Plans or to share how you are contributing towards these actions, please visit:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/biodiversitypartnership or contact the coordinator Fabiola Blum on 01223 715697.



Byron's Pool LNR - Photo: Biological Records Centre