



Summary Report

June 2025

Residents transforming Lockleaze's greenspaces for people and wildlife



Why urban nature recovery?

Supporting urban wildlife is an essential part of addressing our pressing ecological crisis. There is more biodiversity in a city's allotments, parks and gardens than in the countryside's intensive dairy farms or fields of sprayed barley.

Thriving nature in cities is also vital for people - for wellbeing, clean air, shade, flood prevention, pollination and a connection to the living systems and species that support life as we know it. If people don't see nature, they won't learn and care about it, and they won't act to support it.



Lockleaze & Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust

Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust (LNT) has been the anchor organisation for Lockleaze in North Bristol for 25 years. Lockleaze has areas of high deprivation and challenges around housing, health and hardship, but the community is resilient, proud of where we live, and the fourth most diverse ward in Bristol. We are proud to have worked with a Community Ecologist from Avon Wildlife Trust who has been embedded in this project.

Background

In 2022 we produced the [Lockleaze Community Climate Action Plan](#) as part of the ground-breaking Community Climate Action Project run by Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership and supported by the National Lottery Community Fund. Lockleaze is blessed with 66 acres of housing greens and verges, as well as two large nature corridors. Residents told us they loved their green spaces, and were worried about the effect of extensive housebuilding on wildlife. This led to [Really Wild Lockleaze](#), a project which tests new approaches to nature recovery at neighbourhood scale in urban housing estates.



Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership



What has Really Wild Lockleaze achieved?



Really Wild Lockleaze worked with residents to **transform** our public housing greens, private gardens, street verges and marginal land for nature. Residents made and enacted eight **'community plans for nature'** for the greenspace on their streets. We created a new **'urban nature reserve'** at the local sports centre and **planted trees** in local parks with residents. We have created a **Small Blue Butterfly Corridor**, **monitored** plants and bumblebees, campaigned to encourage participation in **No Mow May**, set up **Lockleaze Nature Network**, held the first Lockleaze Nature Festival, and a lot more besides!

A demonstrator project

Really Wild Lockleaze is leading the way in community-led urban nature recovery work:

- Pioneering work on council housing greens and verges with council permission
- Using marginal urban land for nature recovery
- Showcased as regionally important by WECA, WENP, and The Wildlife Trusts
- Creating toolkits for other communities to use



Events held

Attended 1713 times



Habitat creation events

Attended 659 times



Citizen science events

Attended 33 times



Local conversations



Doors Knocked

162 doorstep conversations



Leaflets dropped

Total area improved for nature: **12,082.5 m²**

Average uplift in floral biodiversity: **486.48%**

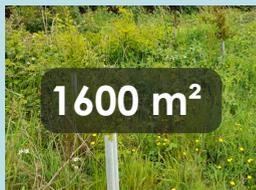
Case study: Stanfield Close

Stanfield Close was the first street where we broke soil to create more space for nature. Residents here planted bulbs, fruit bushes, a wildlife hedge, apple trees, and created a wildflower meadow in their wide verge.

Resident Katherine said *"We are hoping to promote more wildlife coming here, and are hoping this will create a domino effect for other areas of Lockleaze to do the same."*



New nature habitat in public spaces



1600 m²

Woodland planted



2947 m²

Wildflower meadow sown



172.5m

Hedgerow planted



5

Ponds created

New nature habitat in Lockleaze gardens



275

Trees planted in gardens



124

Households doing No Mow May



236

Households sowing wildflowers



7316 m²

Wild meadow



4

Ponds created in gardens

Residents told us they learnt...

to plan and carry out tasks as a team
tree planting
 butterfly identification
 fruit tree grafting
 how to care for young trees
 creating a slumpery
 wetland habitat creation
 how to make a pond
 how to talk to people of all ages and backgrounds
how to create wildflower meadow
native tree identification
 scything
 to build a bird box
 wildflower identification
 better people and communication skills
 benefits of being involved with the community
 to plant bulbs
wildlife-friendly gardening
 how to plant a hedge
 importance of biodiversity
 public engagement
 to make a planter
 to be bolder inviting people to things
 insect identification
 bat identification

Sweet spot: Bringing together community development & nature action



Nature action is a positive space to work in. 97% of residents we spoke to were supportive of nature action on their streets, telling us about their love of the wild creatures in their gardens and their desire to look after them. In our project, residents created plans and took action about wildlife they loved, on land they care about. Furthermore, they were doing it with neighbours and like-minded people, at deliberately social events. The resulting benefits go far beyond those for wildlife.

"Really Wild Lockleaze made me feel more connected and part of a neighbourhood, which I haven't felt before. I really love the area we live in now and feel part of it, all whilst learning about nature around us in urban areas and helping to grow more trees."

Sweet spot: creating habitat on people's streets

We know that it is working on people's streets that has brought many of the benefits



Fostering Community Pride

"It gives a sense of care and pride to the area, as the work is done in shared spaces across Lockleaze, where we all actually live."



Bringing together all parts of society

"The most valuable thing is the togetherness the team has forged over a diverse range of local people"

Fostering daily nature connection

81% of residents said the project made them feel more connected to nature.

Visibility of the work *"Although I haven't participated, seeing the groups out together gives me a sense of pride in the area."*

Encouraging better care for streets

"There's less fly tipping. It's stopped on my street because of the project. Locals were dumping before and now they've stopped."



Increasing Community Action

71% say they feel more ownership over their street greenspace.

83% feel more confident in taking action in their community.



96% said it has made Lockleaze feel like a better place to live.

"Communities and neighbours have been brought together and so many connections have been made. Lockleaze is so, so much better as a result of the project!"

Resident quotes and feedback in this report came from an end of project evaluation survey, open to all local residents. 48 local residents took part, 38 of which were involved in the project in some way.

Where next?



We want to continue this ground breaking work on Lockleaze's streets, involving more streets that don't have greenspace - for example putting up bird boxes. We want all of Lockleaze's Housing Greens and verges to be wild and thriving for people and wildlife. But we don't want to stop there - we have a huge nature corridor coming through Lockleaze through the railway, under the pylons, and surrounding Horfield Brook. We want this area to be managed for nature by the community of Lockleaze.

"Please keep going!"

"The Really wild project means love, nature and community connection.

I have made new friends, found a passion for gardening and feel

a part of this community"

Lockleaze resident