



WILD STREETS OF LOCKLEAZE

How to green your neighbourhood

Residents in a Bristol neighbourhood are wilding their streets with trees, wildflowers and more as part of the urban nature recovery project - Really Wild Lockleaze. This guide documents how Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust supported the community to do this, to help you green your neighbourhood too.

Really Wild Lockleaze is a grassroots urban nature recovery project run by Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust, supported by Avon Wildlife Trust. It is part of the [Community Climate Action Project](#) coordinated by Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership, funded by the National Lottery's Climate Action Fund.



With wildlife in decline across the country, boosting nature in cities is vital.

Urban meadows are just as valuable as rural meadows, and some species such as hedgehogs are actually doing better in urban areas. But this work is not only just for wildlife and nature: it grows community, gets more people involved in environmental action, and boosts wellbeing.

Greening your neighbourhood can involve different elements, ideas include: planting native trees, fruit trees, wildflower meadow patches, no-dig herb beds, native hedgerows and veg beds. But where to start?

Here's our step-by-step guide...

Find a 'street champion': *Spring/ Summer*

- Work on streets where the residents are keen to take action for nature, and where you've made a connection with someone who is happy to take the lead
- Encourage and support them to recruit and consult with their neighbours
- Reward them for their role - from biscuits to training opportunities

Hold a community planning meeting: *Summer / Early Autumn*

- Invite residents looking onto the green space, nearby neighbours, and local councillors
- Bring a table, a big bit of paper and pens for residents to draw a plan, as well as photos of example habitats e.g. meadows, fruit trees and hedgerows
- Collect ideas and concerns with names and addresses. Set up a Whatsapp group for coordinating the work. Make sure you think about [GDPR](#)

Consult the community: *Autumn*

- Create a consultation notice with the benefits, a scale map, how the plan was made, and a date to reply by (three weeks away) or their agreement will be assumed
- Post through doors and put on display around the greenspace
- Visit anyone with concerns and adjust the plan as necessary
- Record each contact with a resident and their comments, to demonstrate majority support for the council

Get permission from the council:

Autumn/ Early Winter

- Use the council's resources e.g. Pinpoint to find which department owns the land - usually 'Housing', who can be contacted via their officers. You also need to send it to the Parks Department (who manage the land), One Tree Per Child (if you want to plant trees), and your local councillors
- Send them:
 - An anonymised copy of your consultation record, including addresses
 - A copy of the consultation notice
 - A description of the planning and consultation process with summary of the results
 - A simple management plan detailing what actions need to be taken to care for the habitat, also when these actions need undertaking and who is responsible for what

Put the plan into action: *Winter/ Early Spring*

- Hold community work days for habitat creation and care. We planted bulbs in the autumn before official council permission, but after the consultation. Once we have full permissions the trees go in over winter, and meadows in the spring or autumn
- We planted berry bushes in late winter, and herb planting went in during spring
- One Tree Per Child, Bristol City Council, supervised our tree planting and supplied trees etc.
- Bring tools, tea, biscuits, a risk assessment, and litter pickers



Do ✓

Make sure the ideas come from the residents living next to the site

Have a sensible management plan in place: who is doing what, when?

If creating meadow, it's a good idea to mow the margins so it looks intentional and doesn't obstruct pavements

Leave at least 6ft for mowers around plantings - or 3ft if the mower can run on a pavement alongside

Don't ✗

Include significant infrastructure projects, e.g. no-dig beds are easier for the council to accept than raised beds

Create high maintenance elements such as showy flower beds - simple, low maintenance options are better

Block access to people's property, or existing use of the green e.g. kids playing football, or people walking

Plant trees where they will grow too big - put the right species in the right place



Citizen science

Monitoring the benefits to nature and people can be an interesting activity for residents to engage with and can help you get future funding.

Establish a baseline prior to your work so you can prove uplift in biodiversity. Use an established monitoring scheme. FIT Counts (Flower Insect Timed Counts) are an easy way to engage people in monitoring. Also look at BeeWalk, UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, National Plant Monitoring Scheme, and the National History Museum's survey calendar.

To set up a residents' monitoring group, start with running a nature interest (e.g. bee) walk, followed by a teaching event to engage the community and build confidence. Consider using university students looking for a placement. Keep your own records, as well as submitting them to your local Environmental Records Centre, so they are available for local use. Remember to record quotes from residents involved in your work, to demonstrate the benefits for people too.

Hannah Blaszczyk on Landseer Avenue

Hannah Blaszczyk and her neighbours have planted a pear tree, fruit bushes, and wildflower meadow on their housing green.

“

I think when something is on your doorstep, it gets you more excited. It has made me feel like Lockleaze is my home. I'm actually chuffed to bits about it – when I come home I am always smiling about it and telling my partner I bloody love it!

“

I definitely have lots of conversations with my neighbours about the space – it's been a good conversation starter. I feel more encouraged about the chance the wildlife has in Lockleaze. It has been hugely valuable to me and I feel like it's been a huge benefit to the area.

Find out more

lockleazehub.org.uk/really-wild-lockleaze

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