



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

It is International Year of Biodiversity 2010. This is a chance to celebrate and promote all the successes and achievements of the last few years but also to take a step back and see where targets have not been met and where we need to do better as a nation to protect our natural resources.

The Glasgow Biodiversity Steering Group was first set up away back in 1996. In the last fourteen years a fantastic amount of work has taken place to ensure the City's biodiversity is protected and enhanced for its own sake and for people's health and wellbeing.

A few of the highlights are:

- The launch of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Glasgow in September 2001. The LBAP continually changes and updates as actions are completed and new projects appear. Read below about what's happening at Kelvingrove Park to raise awareness of biodiversity.
- The expansion from one Local Nature Reserve (at Bishop Loch) to seven LNRs around the City means there really is a 'wildlife on your doorstep' experience for each of us in Glasgow. Inside this newsletter have a look at the focus on Hogganfield to see the kind of work going on to make the experience one that people want to come back to time and time again.
- The increased opportunities for getting involved personally with local biodiversity. See page three for what Froglife are getting up to and for some more ideas if you want to get your hands dirty and make a difference.

— Kelvingrove Park —



Butterfly Garden

Work started in 2007 as part of BBC Springwatch to enhance the biodiversity value of the whole park and has continued ever since. There are now areas of wildflower meadow and natural woodland (as well as a butterfly garden) and the pond has been naturalised. A range of events and activities are underway to enhance and expand these areas.

— Tree planting —

Volunteers from the local Hindu temple planted trees and shrubs to enhance woodland in the park.



— Conservation Days —

The RSPB have organised a programme of Conservation Days to carry out practical work in the park. To find out more contact Alistair Allan, RSPB Information Officer on 07796 310 547 or email alistair.allan@rspb.org.uk

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HOGGANFIELD PARK LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Hogganfield Park Local Nature Reserve has been a hive of activity over the last few months.



Wetland edges made good

Hogganfield Loch is one of Glasgow's largest waterbodies, but it has surprisingly few water edge plants. To improve the loch edges, shallow areas had to be constructed and then planted up with native, attractive water-loving plants.

Two areas of shallows have been created to form saucer shaped beds, within the north east corner of the loch. These beds have been lined with geotextile and filled with soil. This meant that water plants including colourful Yellow Flag and Purple Loosestrife could then survive. Since the loch is large enough for waves to be generated, the weather edge was reinforced using larger stones.



By creating shallows where water edge plants can flourish, the biodiversity of the loch is enhanced because insects such as damselflies and dragonflies use the new habitat for shelter and finding food. The new naturalised edge is also good for waterbirds who can find cover there. Last but not least it's a much nicer place to walk alongside because it's colourful and full of life.



Yellow Flag



Purple Loosestrife

The eroded bays on the north western margin of the loch have also been infilled, behind barriers of elm poles. Not only will this work stabilise the erosion, the water plants in the infill enhance the biodiversity along the margin and when flowering in summer, will make the views over the loch more attractive.

Council ecologists and wildlife conservation charity team up to reclaim island for native wildlife

Over the last few months a team of Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) trainees and staff have been busy clearing non-native species from an island in Hogganfield Loch to assist in the establishment of native woodland. A large area of rhododendron has been tackled with chainsaws and herbicide to create more light and allow native trees and shrubs to grow. GCC Ecologist Dave Garner said 'This work will hopefully enable more native species such as blackcap and/or chiffchaff to breed on the island as well as assisting with closer monitoring of any bird activity on the island. In addition an area of non-native bridewort that had colonised the shores of the island has been removed.'



New perches - for birds and boats!

SWT Teams have also completed a project to create four bird perching posts and then use these to mark out the boating area on the loch. The new posts will help to ensure that organised boat groups on the loch know the boundaries of the boating area as well as helping to give birds such as cormorants a convenient perching point from which to do a spot of fishing.



Deeply Dippy

As part of the International Year of Biodiversity Froglife are encouraging volunteers to become involved with projects throughout the country. Froglife's Glasgow Living Water Project provides opportunities for local residents to interact with nature and assist with improving habitats for wildlife. Seven new ponds have already been created in Glasgow and there are plans to create and enhance many more to increase the network of ponds throughout the city. To celebrate the International Day of Biodiversity on the 22nd of May Froglife ran a series of pond dipping events. The Glasgow event was held at Dams to Darnley Country Park with assistance from the local countryside rangers. Dipping sessions help to raise awareness of the variety of wildlife that lives under the surface of local ponds that often remain a mystery to visitors. The project will also be running other events ranging from enhancing new wildlife ponds by planting native plant species to surveying existing ponds for amphibians and

wider fauna and flora. For more information on events and volunteering opportunities contact Eilidh Spence, the Living Water Project officer on 01413390737 or eilidh.spence@froglife.org



Funding for the Glasgow Living Water Project has been secured through Heritage Lottery Funding and Biffaward and work is carried out in partnership with Glasgow City Council.

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— Kelvingrove Park —

— Spring into life —



Plants and animals spring into life as the days get longer and temperatures increase. Nature was given a helping hand at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in March. A thousand wildflowers were planted by 250 enthusiastic volunteers to create a new meadow. Two species of bumblebee even turned up on the day to show their appreciation for all the hard work!

Meadows are home to a wide variety of bees, butterflies, bugs and birds- biodiversity.

Experts were on hand from BTCV Scotland, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Butterfly Conservation, CS Glasgow, LES Glasgow City Council and RSPB to give an insight into the importance of these wildlife habitats and how you can help increase the biodiversity of parks and gardens.



Get Stuck in and Make a Difference

If you want to volunteer to help Glasgow's biodiversity these days you are spoilt for choice. If you are interested in ponds, amphibians and other water life then you could join Eilidh's activities on the previous page. If you would like to undertake activities such as woodland thinning and planting wildflowers at wildlife sites throughout Glasgow then you could join the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV Scotland) or the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT). Find out more at www.btcvscotland.org and www.swt.org.uk

To get involved practically in Conservation Days at Kelvingrove Park contact Alistair Allan, RSPB Information Officer on 07796 310 547 or Email: alistair.allan@rspb.org.uk



Events



The Council's **Wild About Glasgow** countryside events diary contains nearly 100 events throughout the year. Events coming up include:

Going Batty

27th August - Kelvingrove Park

28th August - Linn Park

29th August - Pollok Country Park

8.30pm - 10.00pm

Join the Countryside Rangers during European Bat weekend for a walk after dark to go in search of these elusive creatures.

To find out more phone the Countryside Rangers on 0141 276 0924 or visit www.glasgow.gov.uk/parks

Urban Biodiversity: Successes and Challenges conference is to be held at the University of Glasgow on Saturday and Sunday 30/31st October 2010 as part of International Year of Biodiversity 2010. Organised by Glasgow Natural History Society in association with the University of Glasgow, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Glasgow City Council, Culture and Sport Glasgow and the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Find out more at www.gnhs.org.uk/urbanbio.html or contact Richard Weddle on 0141 339 1343.



The LBAP is supported by the following organisations



NEWS, VIEWS, OPINIONS - Write to the Biodiversity Officers

The Biodiversity Officers, Carol MacLean, Keith Watson and Cath Scott can be contacted at:
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Further information is available on the Council's website:
www.glasgow.gov.uk/biodiversity

