

Nature Recovery Sheffield Draft Plan

OUR VISION

Throughout Sheffield, from our streets and neighbourhoods to the wider countryside, there will be an abundance of nature that is protected, cared for and experienced by everyone.

OUR ASK

That the Council, businesses, communities, individuals and groups, collaborate with Nature Recovery Sheffield to develop and deliver a Nature Recovery Plan for Sheffield.

To do this we need:

- a) Your support and commitment to help develop the plan and take actions forward. This might involve attending meetings and workshops, raising issues with your local Councillors or MP as well as delivering actions on the ground.
- b) Someone to lead from the organisations / groups / businesses involved.
- c) Everyone to help spread the word and encourage others to get involved.

OUR DRAFT COMMUNITY NATURE RECOVERY PLAN (so far)

By thinking globally and acting locally, together we can:

1. Turn around the nature emergency and put nature in recovery, so that 30% of land and rivers / water in Sheffield are great for nature by 2030:

- **Protect and look after publicly owned woodlands, countryside, farms and green spaces so that they are great for nature as well as people.**
- **Protect and look after existing wildlife sites:**
 - Nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's), RAMSAR Sites, National Nature Reserves (NNR's) & Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) and in particular how manage our moorlands.
 - Local Wildlife Sites
 - Ancient Woodlands, Ancient and Veteran Trees
- **Create more wildlife sites and expand existing wildlife sites that help join up nature across Sheffield as part of nature recovery networks; make more space for nature:**
 - S12, S13, S20 Corridors
 - Lower River Don
 - North Sheffield Woodland Corridor
 - Identifying other existing and potential nature corridors through community surveys and engagement.

- **Green our streets and neighbourhoods:**
 - ‘Rewild’ parks and road verges
 - Look after and increase our street trees
 - Green more public spaces and buildings

- **Reduce plastic (and other) pollution in parks, rivers, water bodies and the countryside.**

- **Promote wildlife gardening at any scale:**
 - Use local wild plants or ones that are good for wildlife
 - ‘No Mow May’
 - Use only peat-free composts
 - Rainwater collection and reuse
 - Install ponds
 - Avoid hedge and shrub pruning in nesting season
 - Be responsible pet owners - keeping dogs under control / on leads in the countryside (and parks) and cleaning up their mess. Keeping cats indoors at night and fitting a collar with a bell.
 - Local seed collection group activities for redistribution

- **Protect wildlife and help it thrive reversing the loss of local species:**
 - Wildlife Recovery Plans e.g.
 - Swifts
 - Hedgehogs
 - Bees, Insects, Pollinators
 - Amphibians
 - Remove introduced plants and animals that cause problems for our local wildlife e.g:
 - Japanese Knotweed
 - Himalayan Balsam
 - American Mink
 - Signal Crayfish
 - Record wildlife so we understand it better:
 - Bioblitz
 - Nature Counts
 - Date for Nature
 - INaturalist Projects
 - Council Ecology Unit
 - Local ‘Experts’
 - Stop the non-essential use of pesticides & chemicals
 - End spraying in green spaces, parks, play areas, around trees, under hedges
 - Stop the use of Roundup and similar weedkillers (individuals, groups)

2. Help everyone in Sheffield experience and enjoy the benefits that nature brings:

- **Children have better access to nature:**

- Network of wild play spaces in school grounds, community areas, public spaces etc.
- Outdoor classrooms
- Tree planting
- Wildlife walks, talks and 'hands-on' experiences

- **People can enjoy nature on their doorstep for their health & wellbeing:**

- 10 minutes to nature
- Nature prescriptions
- Wildlife walks, talks and 'hands-on' experiences
- Volunteering opportunities
- Community orchards and growing

- **Delivering nature projects that help reduce air pollution:**

- Tree planting
- Hedge laying
- Community growing (orchards etc.)
- 'Greening' the City Centre
- Better Air Quality measurement to target the worst areas

- **Help solve the climate crisis so that Sheffield can be net zero by 2030 and better prepared for extreme weather events by delivering nature projects that help:**

- Lock up carbon
- Protect Sheffield from flooding by employing upstream flood management solutions e.g. tree planting
- Manage soil erosion and water run-off