TRURO CITY COUNCIL

Town Clerk's
Department
Municipal Buildings
Boscawen Street
Truro TR1 2NE
Tel: (01872) 274766
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16 October 2026

To: Truro City Councillors Honorary Freeman Wells (Mayor), Rich (Deputy Mayor), La Borde, Southcombe and Sunderhauf.

Also to: External Representatives Ms Sue Allen, Ms Sarah Douglas-Martin (Treffry Residents' Association), Mr John Faragher (Friends of Daubuz Moor) and Ms Jade Neville (Friends of Coosebean and Cornwall Wildlife Trust)

Dear Members of the **TRURO NATURE RECOVERY FORUM (TNRF)**

The next meeting of the Nature Recovery Forum will take place on **THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2026 starting at 7.00 pm in the Large Community Room, Second Floor, Library Building, Union Place, Truro**

AGENDA

1. **COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**
   To **note apologies**.

2. **DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3. **MINUTES** (Appendix 1)
   To **resolve** to approve and sign the Minutes of the Truro Nature Recovery Forum meeting held on 16 June 2026.

4. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**
   To **note** that the Parks and Amenities Committee adopted the amended terms of reference at its meeting held on 7 September.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
   Verbal report.

6. **DRAFT TRURO NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY** (Appendix 2)
   On 28 July the Ranger Team met with the Forum for a plan drafting session. A copy of the draft plan is attached. To **recommend to the Parks and Amenities Committee** the updated draft Strategy.

7. **STRATEGY FRONT COVER** (Appendix 3)
   Copies of front cover photos for the plan were requested. Forum members were requested to send in one photograph encapsulating what nature means to you. The Council's Communications Team has supplied a mock-up front page created using photographs supplied by the Ranger Team for consideration by the Forum. To **recommend to the Parks and Amenities Committee** the draft Strategy Front Cover.

8. NATURE RECOVERY WORK PLAN (Appendix 4)
To **recommend to the Parks and Amenities Committee** the updated work plan.

9. CORRESPONDENCE
(i) To note email dated 13 10 26 regarding Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Sustainability Awards. (Appendix 5)

10. NEXT STEPS
To discuss.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

DAVID RODDA MBE

TOWN CLERK

TRURO CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF TRURO
Town Clerk

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MEETING OF TRURO NATURE RECOVERY FORUM (TNRF) HELD ON TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2025 at 7.03 pm in the Large Community Room, Second Floor, Truro Public Library, Union Place, Truro

PRESENT: Councillors: Southcombe (Chairman), and La Borde, and Sunderhauf.
External Members: Ms Sue Allen.
ABSENT: Ms Sarah Douglas-Martin (Treffry Residents' Association) and John Faragher (Friends of Daubuz Moor).
ALSO PRESENT: None.
APOLOGIES: Councillors Honorary Freeman Wells (Mayor), Rich and Ms Jade Neville (Friends of Coosebean and Cornwall Wildlife Trust)
Also in Attendance: Richard Budge, Parks and Amenities Manager, Anna Cormie, Assistant Countryside Ranger, Stephen Kirkpatrick Head Countryside Ranger, and Cheryl Simpson, Committee Clerk.

1. COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES
Noted. NRF/26/261

2. DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None. NRF/26/262

3. MINUTES
It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor La Borde, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Truro Nature Recovery Forum Meeting held on 28 April 2026 were signed as a correct record. **NRF/26/263**

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE
The Forum's Terms of Reference were reviewed. The Committee Clerk requested that the Forum meet bi-monthly due to capacity - this was generally welcomed. Councillor Sunderhauf commented that he was not a member of the Parks and Amenities Committee, so it was suggested that in future the membership come from the wider Council i.e. Paragraph 4.2 replace "Parks and Amenities Committee" with "Council". It was also suggested in Paragraph 4.4 to update "Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer" to "Parks and Amenities Manager" and "Zero Carbon Officer" to "Facilities, Estates & Compliance Manager".

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Sue Allen, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Parks and Amenities Committee adopt the amended Terms of Reference. NRF/26/264

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman thanked the Ranger Team in particular for their invaluable input. NRF/26/265

6. DRAFT TRURO NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

On 26 May the Parks and Amenities Manager and Ranger Team met with the Forum for a plan drafting session. A copy of the draft plan was circulated to the Forum. Progress on drafting a plan was welcomed.

The Parks and Amenities Manager noted that the City Council currently maintained the Dalvennie (Sainsburys) roundabout and the Truro in Bloom Committee were looking to obtain sponsorship to maintain this at a higher standard. This might involve planting perennials and native trees. The Town Centre Foreman was also investigating sourcing native daffodils for planting in flower displays. The City Council aimed to provide more sustainable and permanent planting such as perennials. Reference was made to the 'Wild Truro' bed adjacent to the Cathedral which looked stunning. It was suggested that a link to Cornwall Council's Nature Recovery Strategy be added to the draft plan.

The last sentence of page 23 was amended by the replacement of "plans" with "plants" and the addition of "ferns" to the end of the sentence. It was suggested that page 3 be amended by the addition of "or create" before "a compost heap". It was suggested that a reference to the Council's annual Garden and Allotment Competition be added. It was generally considered that a section on nature be added to the vision section and/or woven throughout the plan document rather than a separate section due to 'geographical' layout of the template.

It was suggested to add Kenwyn Flower and Garden Club, Truro Cathedral Gardening Group and Cornwall Garden Scheme to the draft volunteer directory

Action: Plan drafting afternoon to which all Forum members were invited to attend on Tuesday 28 July starting at 2pm. Committee Clerk to confirm arrangements. (The Parks and Amenities Manager sent apologies because he was away judging the In Bloom competition.) NRF/26/266

7. STRATEGY FRONT COVER

Copies of front cover photos for the plan were requested. Forum members were requested to send in one photograph (to Committee Clerk Cheryl Simpson) encapsulating what nature means to them and the three most suitable would be sent to the TCC Communications Team to create a mock-up front page for consideration by the Forum at the following meeting.
NRF/26/267

8. ACCREDITATION TO NATURE TOWNS AND CITIES

The Forum decided to defer any action pending the drafting of the plan.
NRF/26/268

9. TRURO NATURE RECOVERY WORK PLAN

The Forum generally agreed the latest draft work plan. NRF/26/269

10. CORRESPONDENCE

None. NRF/26/270

11. NEXT STEPS

It was suggested at a later stage that feedback be requested on the evolving draft plan including schools on the school grounds section, Robert Moor and Rev. Andy Boorne church grounds, Barrack Lane Allotment Group, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Patchwork Farm CIC, Truro BID, friends' groups. Interested parties could be asked to review particular parts but feedback on the whole document would be welcomed. It was also suggested that advice could be sought from the West Country Rivers Trust on the Water section.

NRF/26/271

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 15 September 2026 starting at 7pm. NRF/26/272

The meeting closed at 19:57.

---------- CHAIRMAN

Topic	Contribution to Nature Recovery Strategy	Purpose and Key Objectives	Resource requirements	Current Position	Delivered by
Develop nature recovery strategy	The purpose of the Forum is to develop a strategy	The main purpose of the Forum is to develop a strategy and implementation plan	Forum, Countryside Ranger Team Parks and Amenities Manager	On 28 July a further drafting session to which the Forum is invited has been arranged.	Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
Nature Towns and Cities Accreditation	Seeking accreditation may provide a useful framework	Demonstrates commitment to transforming green infrastructure to benefit people place and nature	Forum, Countryside Ranger Team and Parks and Amenities Manager	At the June meeting it was agreed defer any action on signing up to the accreditation scheme pending drafting of the Plan.	Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Ms Douglas-Martin
Mini-Project at Tremorvah Playingfield	To engage with local people and interest groups	Create traditional grassland meadow, hibernaculum/compost area and orchard. Improve biodiversity.	Countryside Ranger Team and Parks and Amenities Manager. £295 allocated by P&AC.	On 2 March the P&AC agreed to the establishment of the mini-project. Logs delivered on site. Grass scarification next. Leaflets to be delivered to local residents about the project.	Parks Department
Establishment of Biological Recording Group	To establish a local biological recording group to collect & strengthen base evidence of state of nature in Truro.	Improve biodiversity data coverage for Truro & assist in monitoring long-term trend.	Countryside Ranger Team and Parks and Amenities Manager	The Forum welcomed the establishment of such a group independent of the Council (like friends' groups). Countryside Ranger Team to make links to other interest groups.	Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
Forum logo	To engage	To share commitment	Events Officer,	P&AC on 08.06.26 approved the	Chairperson and Vice-

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	with local community	to conserve & enhance biodiversity	Communications Team, Countryside Ranger Team and Parks and Amenities Manager	logo.	Chairperson
Survey	To engage with members of the public	To provide relevant data base to support development of strategy	Forum, Visit Truro and Digital Communications Manager, Countryside Ranger Team and Parks and Amenities Manager. £1295.35 funding is available	The Parks and Amenities Manager, Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson met with the Visit Truro and Digital Communications Manager and Events Officer to discuss ideas. An idea for a public survey by a specialist provider was suggested.	Communications Team
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal & Biodiversity Net Gain Metric of land at Compigney Hill (Coosebean)	Survey requested by Land at Compigney Hill (Coosebean) Steering Group. Activity aligned to Forum	Collect & strengthen base evidence of state of nature	Land at Compigney Hill (Coosebean) Steering Group Specialist contractor	Survey requested by Steering Group and commissioned By Council via P&AC. To report back to Steering Group.	Parks and Amenities Manager
Plan front cover	The purpose of the Forum is to develop a strategy	The main purpose of the Forum is to develop a strategy and implementation plan	Communications Team, Parks and Amenities Manager	Copies of front cover photos have been requested. Three most suitable will be sent to Comms Team to create a mock-up front page for consideration by Forum at September meeting.	Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Nature Recovery Plan
Truro City Plan

2026-2036
Review every 3 years

Truro City Council

Nature recovery plan: The Parish of the City of Truro

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Acknowledgements

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Vision

A thriving, inclusive and sustainable Truro where community, commerce, heritage and nature flourish together.
Truro City Council will undertake a strategic review of how our green infrastructure is managed and undertake works that deliver the multiple benefits of nature recovery, carbon sequestration and increased public access.

The Council is passionate about reversing the decline of nature and wants to take action to protect what is special about the Parish of the City of Truro, create new habitats and get more people involved in caring for and enjoying the natural environment which is all around us.

The Council manages pockets of land throughout the parish varying in size from, park, woods, meadows to verges, flower beds, roundabouts and footpaths. The aim of the Council is to embed nature recovery into all its strategic plans and policies going forward, protecting and managing its landholding for nature and public access and recovery of. By 2035, Truro will be recognised as a City where biodiversity, heritage, and community at the forefront of everybody's mind creating a resilient, living landscape. The Strategy focuses on improving all our green infrastructure, helping to expand, connecting neighborhoods with nature and wellbeing. The ambition is to ensure everyone benefits from access to high-quality natural environment and places communities at the heart of looking after them for now and future generations.
This nature recovery plan sets out a medium-term plan for the creation of more nature rich habitats in the Parish. This plan sets out what we want to achieve over the next ten years.
To do this, this plan has a double page for each theme we'd like to take action on, setting out what we currently have, where we'd like to get to, and how we are going to get there.
But to be successful, we will need your help! You can help by taking action in your own garden or perhaps volunteering to help tidy up or manage a public space – more details in the plan.
Strategy - Our Five Point Recovery Plan Objectives

Vision Statement:

1. Truro will be a city that supports an abundance of nature, to which the population has access

2. To make the Parish of the City of Truro an even better place for nature and for local people, recognizing that access to nature also helps improve our health and wellbeing. (How will we measure success? What's the base line?)

3. To inform, inspire and encourage the active participation of the community in helping nature to flourish and biodiversity to increase within the Parish.

4. To protect, and enhance, the natural environment spaces in all Truro City Council holdings and spaces. To create new habitats, with a special focus on grasslands, wetlands, woodlands flower borders/beds.

5. To lead by example and encouraging neighboring landowners do the same.

6. To engage, inform and inspire the local community by making Truro the place where nature thrives. [add photos to help fill gaps]

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Theme 1: Private Gardens

Introduction

Together, the private gardens within the Parish of Truro cover an area greater than all of Truro City Council's landholdings combined. As such, gardens play a crucial role in supporting nature recovery, connecting habitats across the city, and providing safe refuges for wildlife within our urban environment.

You do not need a large garden for wildlife to benefit. In fact, a patchwork of wildlife-friendly gardens are potentially more valuable in helping to connect up areas than a single large, isolated habitat on its own. Individual gardens do not need to supply everything that different species need as gardens collectively across the City will, if householders can supply one or more of the following from food sources, shelter, nesting sites, or water, then that's all that's needed. As a bird may nest in one garden, feed in another, and bathe in a third. This interconnection of gardens allows wildlife to move through the City and adapt to the ever-changing environment.

Gardens throughout the City are possibly the most important habitats for wildlife throughout Truro. Individually they may be small, but together they form the largest overall area of green infrastructure in Truro. These gardens provide a rich variety of habitats from lawns, flower borders, hedges, shrubs, ponds, trees, compost heaps, vegetable plots, orchards, and areas of bare ground. This diversity supports a wide range of species, from birds, bats, hedgehogs, amphibians, pollinators, reptiles, and countless invertebrates.

One of their greatest values is their ability to act as steppingstones between larger habitats such as parks, churchyards, allotments, orchards, rivers, and countryside. Hedgerows, trees, ponds, climbers, and wildlife-friendly boundaries can significantly improve habitat connectivity and ecological resilience across the City.

Gardens are particularly important for pollinators. Flowering plants, fruit trees, herbs, vegetable crops, and wildflower patches provide nectar and pollen throughout the year, supporting bees, butterflies, moths, hoverflies, and other beneficial insects. These resources together make a substantial contribution to pollinators in the City.

Private gardens also help build resilience to climate change. Trees and vegetation provide shade and cooling during hot weather, improve air quality, absorb carbon, and slow surface water runoff by increasing water infiltration into the soil. Even small gardens can help reduce local temperatures and provide valuable refuge for wildlife during periods of drought, heat, and extreme weather.

Beyond their environmental value, gardens help people connect with nature on a daily basis. For many residents, their garden is where they most frequently encounter wildlife. Gardening can improve physical and mental wellbeing, reduce stress, encourage outdoor activity, and foster a greater appreciation of the natural environment.

What do we have:

There are approximately 10,000 homes in the Parish of Truro, and national statistics say that 1 in 8 homes don't have gardens, therefore there are approximately 8,000 gardens, each of which can be a mini-oasis for wildlife. This collage of photos below show some great examples of habitats for wildlife, all of which were found inTruro.

[perhaps add a collage of mini photos, to highlight examples of 'good' gardens. Eg bird boxes, ponds, log piles, wild' areas, mixed flowers, native hedges]

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What are we doing:

The Truro City Annual Garden and Allotment Competition celebrates excellence in horticulture, food production, biodiversity enhancement and environmental stewardship across the city. As well as recognising the skill, commitment and creativity of local gardeners and growers, the competition plays an important role in promoting greener, healthier and more resilient communities.

Three of the competition's classes (Best Wildlife- Friendly Garden, Best Pollinator-Friendly Garden and Best Green Initiative) are specifically designed to encourage practices that deliver environmental benefits alongside attractive and productive gardens. These awards recognise individuals, households, schools, community groups and allotment holders who are helping to create spaces that support wildlife, strengthen ecological networks, enhance climate resilience and contribute to the wellbeing of residents. By celebrating outstanding achievement, the competition inspires wider participation in nature recovery, sustainable gardening and community environmental action throughout Truro.

The competition takes place annually during the last week of June, with winners announced at a special Awards Evening held in September or October.

What are we planning to do:

Encouraging homeowners to create wildlife-friendly gardens helps expand habitat, improve ecological connectivity, and support biodiversity across the urban landscape.

Consider setting up a gardening club to share knowledge, inspire wildlife-friendly gardening, and strengthen community connections through a shared interest in nature.

Consider running an annual ‘Most Nature-Friendly Garden’ competition to encourage biodiversity-enhancing gardening practices and celebrate local action for nature recovery.

As a local resident, you can help by:

Plant native and pollinator-friendly flowers – Provide nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other insects, whilst supporting local biodiversity and helping maintain healthy ecosystems.

Choose single-flowered plants where possible – These often provide easier access to nectar and pollen than double-flowered varieties.

Create a pond or small water feature – Provide drinking water and habitat for birds, insects, amphibians and other wildlife, while helping to increase biodiversity.

Let some grass grow longer – Longer grass provides food, shelter and habitat for insects and small animals.

Planting native trees, hedges and shrubs – Provide food, shelter and nesting opportunities for wildlife that have adapted to the local conditions.

Choose native plants where possible – Native species are well suited to local conditions and provide valuable food and habitat for wildlife.

Reduce pesticide and herbicide use - Encourage more sustainable management of urban green spaces, which help pollinators, soil organisms and other wildlife, creating a healthier ecosystem.

Leave some leaf litter, logs and deadwood – These provide shelter and habitat for insects, fungi,

hedgehogs and other wildlife.

Create gaps in fences – Small gaps allow hedgehogs and other wildlife to move safely between gardens and improve habitat connectivity.

Provide food and water for wildlife – Bird feeders and water sources can provide valuable resources throughout the year.

Install wildlife boxes and habitats – Bird, bat, insect and hedgehog boxes can provide places to nest, shelter and rest.

Create a compost heap – Composting reduces waste and helps improve soil health.

Let vegetables flower where possible – Allow bolting vegetables, such as leeks, to flower and provide food for pollinators.

Consider taking an allotment – Growing your own food can support biodiversity, provide a connection with nature and strengthen community links.

Let the grass grow in part of your garden – Creating a small meadow area encourages wildflowers, pollinators, and other beneficial species.

Aim for some areas of medium grass. Cut these as often as you like but adjust the mower blade to a height of 10cm. This allows smaller wildflowers like daisies and speedwells to bloom.

Allow other areas to develop into longer, flowering meadows. Leave them uncut until mid-July onwards, then cut and rake them in July, August or Sept. Raking and removing the cuttings are crucial aspects of meadow management because they prevent soil enrichment and create bare ground for seeds to fall on and germinate. These practices enable wildflowers to flourish.

Create a small wildflower area – Allowing grass and wildflowers to grow can increase biodiversity and support pollinators.

Retaining areas of longer grass for overwintering insects – Long grass provides important shelter where insects can hibernate and complete their life cycles during colder months.

Support reduced mowing in selected areas – Encourage acceptance of a more natural appearance where grass is being managed to benefit wildlife.

More reading:
Wild About Gardens – Encouraging wildlife to your garden with RHS and the Wildlife Trusts Wild About Gardens / RHS Gardening
RSPB – Gardening for Wildlife https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/
National Trust - Nine ways to build a wildlife friendly garden
https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/discover/gardening-tips/nine-ways-to-build-a-wildlife-friendly-garden

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Theme 2: Allotments and Orchards

Introduction (Add map)

Allotments

Truro City Council manages four allotment sites across the City, comprising approximately 104 individual plots, including a number of smaller subdivided plots designed to improve accessibility and meet demand from a wide range of users.

Allotments are valuable community assets that support health and wellbeing, provide sustainable growing spaces, and contribute to the City's network of biodiverse green infrastructure. While historically viewed primarily as places for individual food growing and recreation, allotments are increasingly recognised for their wider environmental and social value.

These sites create important green corridors within the urban landscape, supporting wildlife, pollinators, and ecological connectivity throughout the city. Allotments often contain many of the same features found in domestic gardens — including fruit trees, ponds, compost areas, flowering plants, and hedgerows — but without rigid physical boundaries between plots, allowing wildlife to move more freely across larger connected habitats.

The allotment environment also provides significant social benefits. Shared gardening spaces encourage social interaction, reduce isolation, and help strengthen community connections in an increasingly digital and fast-paced world. The informal exchange of skills, produce, and knowledge between plot holders contributes to a strong sense of belonging and community resilience.

Regular gardening activity also delivers substantial physical and mental health benefits. Digging, planting, lifting, and general plot maintenance help improve fitness, mobility, balance, and coordination, particularly for older gardeners. Studies also show that gardening can support cognitive health, reduce stress, and improve overall mental wellbeing through regular contact with nature and outdoor activity.

Orchards

There are currently three community orchards within the Parish of Truro, with a fourth small orchard due to be established at Tremorvah Playing Fields in autumn 2026. Of the three existing orchards, Nancemere Community Orchard is the only one managed by Truro City Council.

Community orchards provide valuable opportunities to strengthen social connections, enhance biodiversity, and support environmental sustainability within urban areas. They create welcoming green spaces where people can reconnect with nature, socialise, celebrate seasonal change, and take part in shared community activities. In increasingly urbanised environments, orchards offer important opportunities for people of all ages to experience the natural world close to home.

As productive landscapes, orchards support local food growing and contribute to community resilience and food security. Traditional fruit trees, flowering meadows, hedgerows, and deadwood habitats also provide important resources for pollinators, birds, bats, and other wildlife, helping to increase biodiversity and ecological connectivity across the City.

Community orchards also deliver significant health and wellbeing benefits. The physical activity involved in planting, pruning, harvesting, and maintaining orchards supports physical fitness and mobility, while shared involvement in orchard activities can reduce social isolation and improve mental wellbeing. Orchards also act as informal educational spaces where traditional horticultural skills and local knowledge can be passed between generations.

Beyond their environmental value, orchards create spaces for community life and cultural activity. Events such as blossom celebrations, picnics, storytelling sessions, natural play, seasonal gatherings, and harvest festivals help & strengthen community identity and encourage long-term stewardship of local green spaces.

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In urban areas especially, even relatively small orchards can help children and adults reconnect with the natural environment and develop a stronger appreciation for the importance of protecting nature.

What do we have:

Allotments;

Nancemere. Approx 0.8ha (26 plots)
Treverbyn. Approx. 0.45ha (16 plots)
Redannick. Approx. 0.3ha (20 plots)
Barrack Lane Approx. 0.5ha (30 plots)
New Beginning (Malabar) Community Association (12 plots)

Orchards;

Nancemere Community Orchard. Approx. ???ha
County Hall Orchard. Approx???ha
Tremorvah Playing Field. Approx ????ha
Foxes Corner – Cornwall Wildlife Trust

Groups;

Patchwork
Barrack Lane Allotments Group (BLAG) The Barrack Lane Allotment Group is a small community group which manages two allotment plots at Barrack Lane Allotment site. Members meet from 2pm on Saturdays and share the work and produce. They also share a cup of tea and cake. Barbeques are also held.. They meet on Wednesday afternoons in the spring and summer.
Community allotments association

What are we doing:

The Truro City Annual Garden and Allotment Competition is one of the city's longest-standing celebrations of gardening, growing and community pride. Showcasing the very best of Truro's gardens, allotments, schools, businesses and community spaces, the competition recognises excellence in horticulture, food production, environmental stewardship and civic participation.

More than simply rewarding attractive gardens, the competition highlights the vital contribution that well-managed green spaces make to the city. From colourful front gardens and productive allotments to wildlife-rich habitats and inspiring community projects, the awards celebrate the passion, creativity and dedication of those who help make Truro a greener, healthier and more vibrant place to live.

Open to residents, schools, community groups, businesses and allotment holders, the competition encourages high standards of gardening and growing while promoting biodiversity, climate resilience, sustainable land management and community wellbeing. In doing so, it inspires people of all ages to connect with nature, grow food, enhance their local environment and take pride in the places they care for.

The competition is held annually, with judging taking place during the last week of June, culminating in a prestigious Awards Evening in September or October where achievements from across the city are recognised and celebrated. Through its many classes, the competition showcases how gardens and allotments can enrich lives, strengthen communities, support nature and contribute to a more sustainable future for Truro.

Added how we manage Nancemere orchard
Allotments we have a strategy duty under the Smallholding and allotments act 1908 and the allotments act 1922 and 1954 to supply spaces for the city resident to grow veg.

What are we planning to do:

Promote the Truro City Annual Garden and Allotment Competition more widely, with a particular focus on encouraging entries to the environmental award categories: Best Wildlife-Friendly Garden, Best Pollinator-

Friendly Garden and Best Green Initiative.

Undertake surveys of allotment sites to identify existing wildlife habitats and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, helping to target future nature recovery projects where they will have the greatest impact.

Provide practical advice, inspiration and easy-to-implement ideas for allotment holders to help them create plots that are more wildlife-friendly, climate resilient and beneficial for nature.

We are in the process of creating a new allotment site near bucks head roundabout.
We encourage the allotment holder to organically garden, rainwater harvest and reduce the use of pesticides wherever possible and are open to other nature rich ideas.
Patchwork
Barrack Lane Allotments Group (BLAG)
Community allotments association

As a local resident, you can help by:

Join community volunteer days – Help with planting, weeding, mulching, litter picking and general maintenance.

Support local volunteer and Friends groups – Help improve facilities, habitats and community engagement.

Take part in wildlife surveys and Bioblitzes – Record local wildlife to help improve understanding of biodiversity.

Take part in planting events – Help plant native trees, hedgerows, shrubs, community orchards and wildflower areas. Supporting pollinators and improving the urban environment.

Support wildlife pond projects – Volunteer with pond creation, restoration and habitat improvement.

Help maintain community gardens and growing areas – Support planting, watering, harvesting and general upkeep.

Respect planted and wildflower areas – Keep to paths and avoid trampling newly established habitats.

Support wildlife-friendly management – Accept longer grass, native planting and less formal areas where these are being managed for biodiversity.

Leave areas of grass long throughout the year – Longer grass provides valuable habitat for insects and other wildlife.

Report vandalism, damage and maintenance issues – Help protect green spaces, facilities and wildlife habitats.

Pick up litter – Removing rubbish helps protect wildlife and keeps green spaces clean and welcoming.

Take part in local consultations – Share ideas and help shape improvements to local parks and green spaces.

Use parks and green spaces responsibly – Respect habitats, facilities and other users while helping demonstrate the value of these spaces.

Encourage others to enjoy and care for local parks – Positive community involvement helps support their long-term protection and improvement.

Reduce mowing where safety allows – Less frequent mowing gives wildflowers and wildlife more opportunity to thrive.

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Create species-rich wildflower grasslands – Wildflower areas provide habitat and food for insects, birds and small mammals. Whilst increasing biodiversity.

Protect and monitor existing mature trees and hedgerows – Established trees and hedges provide important habitat for wildlife.

Retain deadwood where safe to do so – Logs, branches and fallen trees provide valuable habitat for insects, fungi, birds and other wildlife.

Remove invasive species where appropriate – Help protect native habitats and species from invasive plants and other pressures.

Keep dogs under control – Help prevent disturbance to wildlife and protect sensitive habitats. While keeping areas safe and clean for other users.

Pick up and dispose of dog waste responsibly – Reduce nutrient enrichment, pollution and risks to wildlife and other park users. Pathogens, nutrients and pollutants from waste can have a major disrupting effect on the natural balance of ecosystems.

Take part in wildlife surveys – Recording species can help monitor biodiversity and changes over time.

Join local conservation projects – Help with hedgerow planting, tree planting, orchard restoration, pond creation and habitat management.

Support traditional orchards and local fruit growing – Help protect valuable habitats, traditional skills and local heritage.

Protect and enhance existing green spaces – Support parks, gardens, churchyards, riversides, flower beds and community growing spaces.

Reduce mowing and increase wildflower areas where appropriate – Support insects and improve biodiversity.

Provide homes for wildlife – Install bird boxes, bat boxes and insect habitats where appropriate. Retain mature trees and deadwood where safe to do so.

Reduce pesticide and herbicide use - Encourage more sustainable management of urban green spaces, which help pollinators, soil organisms and other wildlife, creating a healthier ecosystem.

Support community nature projects – Take part in volunteering, community gardening, wildlife monitoring and environmental education.

Educate and inspire others – Share knowledge and encourage friends, family, neighbours and colleagues to take positive action for nature.

Take part in local consultations and decision-making – Contribute ideas about the protection and enhancement of green spaces and provide feedback on existing projects.

Respect wildlife and habitats – Avoid disturbing nesting birds, pollinators, and other wildlife using city centre green spaces.

Manage grassland to encourage flowering plants – Appropriate mowing and cutting regimes can increase flowering and biodiversity.

Aim for some areas of medium grass. Cut these as often as you like but adjust the mower blade to a height of 10cm. This allows smaller wildflowers like daisies and speedwells to bloom.

Allow other areas to develop into longer, flowering meadows. Leave them uncut until mid-July onwards, then cut and rake them in July, August or Sept. Raking and removing the cuttings are crucial aspects of meadow management because they prevent soil enrichment and create bare ground for seeds to fall on

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and germinate. These practices enable wildflowers to flourish.

Create a small wildflower area – Allowing grass and wildflowers to grow can increase biodiversity and support pollinators.

Retaining areas of longer grass for overwintering insects – Long grass provides important shelter where insects can hibernate and complete their life cycles during colder months.

Support reduced mowing in selected areas – Encourage acceptance of a more natural appearance where grass is being managed to benefit wildlife.

Plant native and pollinator-friendly flowers – Provide nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other insects, whilst supporting local biodiversity and helping maintain healthy ecosystems.

Let some grass grow longer – Longer grass provides food, shelter and habitat for insects and small animals.

Leave some leaf litter, logs and deadwood – These provide shelter and habitat for insects, fungi, hedgehogs and other wildlife.

Provide food and water for wildlife – Bird feeders and water sources can provide valuable resources throughout the year.

Install wildlife boxes and habitats – Bird, bat, insect and hedgehog boxes can provide places to nest, shelter and rest.

Create a compost heap – Composting reduces waste and helps improve soil health.

Let vegetables flower where possible – Allow bolting vegetables, such as leeks, to flower and provide food for pollinators.

Consider taking an allotment – Growing your own food can support biodiversity, provide a connection with nature and strengthen community links.

Attend; Pruning days
Orchard days
Wassailing

More reading:
National Allotment Society - https://www.nsalg.org.uk/

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Theme 3: Places of Worship and Their Grounds

Introduction

Places of worship have been at the heart of communities for centuries and, alongside their primary spiritual and cultural role, provide important refuges for wildlife and valuable spaces for nature conservation within urban environments. Churchyards, cemeteries, religious grounds, and associated gardens often represent some of the most undisturbed green spaces within towns and cities, contributing significantly to local biodiversity and ecological resilience.

These landscapes support a wide variety of species and habitats. Ancient stonework can provide ideal conditions for lichens, mosses, and ferns, while roofs, towers, and ledges offer nesting and roosting opportunities for birds and bats. Many religious grounds have escaped intensive agricultural improvement, avoiding the widespread use of fertilizers and ploughing that has affected surrounding landscapes. As a result, they often retain remnants of ancient grassland, supporting diverse fungi, wildflowers, pollinators, and invertebrates.

The long continuity of management within religious grounds means that many of the plants, fungi, and animal communities found there pre-date the religious buildings themselves, reflecting the historic and ecological continuity of these spaces. Mature, veteran, and ancient trees within religious grounds are also of ecological importance, providing habitat for birds, bats, insects, and fungi while contributing significantly to landscape character and climate resilience.

Alongside this historic value, there is growing recognition of the importance of Living Churchyards—an approach that actively manages churchyards and associated grounds to enhance biodiversity while maintaining their spiritual, cultural, and commemorative purpose. Living Churchyards recognise that these spaces can support both people and nature through thoughtful management. Measures such as reducing mowing frequency in selected areas, creating species-rich grassland, protecting veteran trees, installing bird and bat boxes, managing hedgerows, and allowing seasonal flowering can significantly increase ecological value without compromising access or appearance.

Living Churchyards also encourage greater community involvement and stewardship. Through volunteering, wildlife recording, interpretation, seasonal events, and sensitive management, these spaces become opportunities for people to engage with nature and local heritage in meaningful ways. They demonstrate how small, urban green spaces can collectively contribute to wider ecological networks and support nature recovery across the City.

Religious grounds can also help reconnect people with nature. The experience of flowering meadow grassland, mature trees, birdsong, and historic landscapes within busy urban settings offers opportunities for quiet recreation, learning, and reflection, helping residents develop a deeper appreciation for both local heritage and the natural environment.

What do we have:

[describe, briefly, how many churches you have, and what wildlife they may be offering at present]

Kenwyn Church Closed Churchyard - Living Churchyard
St Mary's Closed Churchyard
Truro Public Cemetery
Truro Cathedral and Cathedral Green
Epiphany House
All Saints Church, Highertown
Church of our Lady of the Portal and St Piran, St Austell Street
City Life Church Chapel Hill
St John the Evangelist Church (Lemon Street) & Church Hall (Strangways Terrace)

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Truro Quaker Meeting House
Truro Methodist Church
Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Dobbs Lane
St George's Church
St Paul's Church
Trafalgar Christian Congregation
Livingroom
Vineyard Church

What are we doing:

Kenwyn Churchyard - Managed in accordance with the Living Churchyards project, in partnership with the Diocese of Truro, Truro City Council and Cornwall Wildlife Trust.

- **Regular mowing of the recent burial area** to maintain access and appearance.
- **Wildlife-friendly management** of the wider churchyard with only two cuts per year (September-February).
- **Retain timber, logs and brash on site** from tree works and storm damage to create valuable wildlife habitat.
- **Monitor and maintain bird, bat, insect and hedgehog boxes** to support local biodiversity.
- **Compost green waste on site**, recycling nutrients and reducing waste.
- **Balance heritage, community use and nature conservation** to create a thriving haven for wildlife.

What are we planning to do:

Truro Public Cemetery

- A new nature-focused management plan has being developed for implementation from 2027, delivering significant improvements for biodiversity across the cemetery.
- Enhance habitats for wildlife through more sustainable management and targeted nature recovery measures.
- Increase biodiversity while maintaining the cemetery's heritage, landscape and community value.
- Create a richer, more resilient green space for both wildlife and visitors.

Baseline survey and bioblitz the church grounds, to learn more what animals are using them.

Work with Kenwyn Church Yard a to create a plan moving forward to increase nature conservation

Kenwyn Closed Church Yard – be aspirational – continue to manage headstones and kerbs for lichen.

Manage trees through their full natural lifespan wherever safe to do so, allowing them to develop veteran features that provide exceptional habitat for wildlife.

We cut the grass twice a year (January/February & August), looking at the possibility of collecting cut grass involving the community.

Leave deadwood where possible as it provides essential habitat, shelter, and food for insects, fungi, birds, and other wildlife.

We will encourage Cornwall Council to reduce and ultimately eliminate pesticide use where possible to

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protect pollinators, improve biodiversity, and promote healthier ecosystems.

We'll work with active church and volunteer groups and collate ideas on how they'd like to see the sites managed

Encourage the use of native plants and single-flowered varieties where possible, as they provide more accessible nectar and pollen for pollinators than many double-flowered cultivated varieties.

Research the idea of giving free wildflower (re-moral) seeds to every funeral that happens in Truro (possibly from Comprigny fields).

As a local resident, you can help by:

Join community volunteer days – Help with planting, weeding, mulching, litter picking and general maintenance.

Support local volunteer and Friends groups – Help improve facilities, habitats and community engagement.

Take part in wildlife surveys and Bioblitzes – Record local wildlife to help improve understanding of biodiversity.

Take part in planting events – Help plant native trees, hedgerows, shrubs, community orchards and wildflower areas. Supporting pollinators and improving the urban environment.

Respect planted and wildflower areas – Keep to paths and avoid trampling newly established habitats.

Support wildlife-friendly management – Accept longer grass, native planting and less formal areas where these are being managed for biodiversity.

Leave areas of grass long throughout the year – Longer grass provides valuable habitat for insects and other wildlife.

Report vandalism, damage and maintenance issues – Help protect green spaces, facilities and wildlife habitats.

Pick up litter – Removing rubbish helps protect wildlife and keeps green spaces clean and welcoming.

Take part in local consultations – Share ideas and help shape improvements to local parks and green spaces.

Use parks and green spaces responsibly – Respect habitats, facilities and other users while helping demonstrate the value of these spaces.

Reduce mowing where safety allows – Less frequent mowing gives wildflowers and wildlife more opportunity to thrive.

Create species-rich wildflower grasslands – Wildflower areas provide habitat and food for insects, birds and small mammals. Whilst increasing biodiversity.

Protect and monitor existing mature trees and hedgerows – Established trees and hedges provide important habitat for wildlife.

Retain deadwood where safe to do so – Logs, branches and fallen trees provide valuable habitat for insects, fungi, birds and other wildlife.

Remove invasive species where appropriate – Help protect native habitats and species from invasive plants and other pressures.

Keep dogs under control – Help prevent disturbance to wildlife and protect sensitive habitats. While

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keeping areas safe and clean for other users.

Pick up and dispose of dog waste responsibly – Reduce nutrient enrichment, pollution and risks to wildlife and other park users. Pathogens, nutrients and pollutants from waste can have a major disrupting effect on the natural balance of ecosystems.

Support hedgerow protection and restoration – Recognise the importance of hedgerows for wildlife and landscape character.

Reduce mowing and increase wildflower areas where appropriate – Support insects and improve biodiversity.

Provide homes for wildlife – Install bird boxes, bat boxes and insect habitats where appropriate. Retain mature trees and deadwood where safe to do so.

Reduce pesticide and herbicide use - Encourage more sustainable management of urban green spaces, which help pollinators, soil organisms and other wildlife, creating a healthier ecosystem.

Support community nature projects – Take part in volunteering, community gardening, wildlife monitoring and environmental education.

Educate and inspire others – Share knowledge and encourage friends, family, neighbours and colleagues to take positive action for nature.

Take part in local consultations and decision-making – Contribute ideas about the protection and enhancement of green spaces and provide feedback on existing projects.

Respect wildlife habitats and natural play areas – Avoid disturbing wildflower areas, nesting sites, deadwood habitats, and newly planted vegetation

Assist with maintaining bird boxes, bat boxes, and insect habitats – Support local groups in monitoring and caring for wildlife features.

Respect wildlife and habitats – Avoid disturbing nesting birds, pollinators, and other wildlife using city centre green spaces.

Let the grass grow in part of your garden – Creating a small meadow area encourages wildflowers, pollinators, and other beneficial species.

Aim for some areas of medium grass. Cut these as often as you like but adjust the mower blade to a height of 10cm. This allows smaller wildflowers like daisies and speedwells to bloom.

Allow other areas to develop into longer, flowering meadows. Leave them uncut until mid-July onwards, then cut and rake them in July, August or Sept. Raking and removing the cuttings are crucial aspects of meadow management because they prevent soil enrichment and create bare ground for seeds to fall on and germinate. These practices enable wildflowers to flourish.

Create a small wildflower area – Allowing grass and wildflowers to grow can increase biodiversity and support pollinators.

Retaining areas of longer grass for overwintering insects – Long grass provides important shelter where insects can hibernate and complete their life cycles during colder months.

Support reduced mowing in selected areas – Encourage acceptance of a more natural appearance where grass is being managed to benefit wildlife.

Let some grass grow longer – Longer grass provides food, shelter and habitat for insects and small

animals.

Leave some leaf litter, logs and deadwood – These provide shelter and habitat for insects, fungi, hedgehogs and other wildlife.

Provide food and water for wildlife – Bird feeders and water sources can provide valuable resources throughout the year.

Install wildlife boxes and habitats – Bird, bat, insect and hedgehog boxes can provide places to nest, shelter and rest.

Create a compost heap – Composting reduces waste and helps improve soil health.

More reading
Caring for God's acre: https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/
Bats in churches: https://batsinchurches.org.uk/

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Theme 4: School Grounds

Introduction

There are 7 schools and nurseries in Truro, all of which are playing their part in raising awareness of nature, its importance, and the actions that students can take to help protect and restore the natural environment.

Schools can play a vital role in helping nature recover and reversing the decline of biodiversity. They provide valuable green spaces that can support wildlife and create connected habitats within local communities. By managing school grounds in ways that benefit nature, schools can become safe places for plants, insects, birds, and other animals to thrive.

Schools are also important centres for education, where young people can learn about biodiversity, conservation, and sustainable living. By studying nature both in and outside the classroom, students can develop an understanding and appreciation of the natural environment that can last a lifetime. This knowledge encourages them to make environmentally responsible choices and become active stewards of their surroundings and the planet.

There are many practical ways schools can contribute to nature recovery. For example, students can plant native trees, flowers, and shrubs that provide food and shelter for local wildlife. Schools can create wildlife habitats such as ponds, wildflower meadows, hedgerows, bird boxes, and insect hotels to increase biodiversity on site. Taking part in citizen science projects, including wildlife surveys and bird counts, allows students to collect valuable data while learning about local ecosystems.

In addition, schools can adopt environmentally friendly practices such as reducing waste, recycling, conserving water, saving energy, and encouraging sustainable travel. These actions help reduce the school's environmental impact and demonstrate how everyday choices can protect nature.

The 7 schools and nurseries across Truro are helping to inspire the next generation to care for the environment and understand the importance of nature recovery. By combining education with practical conservation activities, they are making a direct contribution to local biodiversity while encouraging students, families, and the wider community to take positive action for nature. In this way, schools are helping to create a future generation that values and protects the natural environment, supporting efforts to reverse the decline of nature for years to come.

What do we have:

Name the schools

What are we doing:

The Rangers are working with Truro School to coppice areas of Coosebean to collect spines for the Trafalgar Roundabout hedgehogs.

Boscawen Gardeners are working in partnership with Archbishop Benson School to create an inspiring outdoor learning space on the school grounds. With raised beds generously donated by the City council, the project will provide children with hands-on opportunities to grow, nurture, and learn about plants and wildlife.

The aim is to help children develop a stronger connection with nature through practical gardening activities and environmental education. Pupils will participate in growing a range of nature-rich species that support pollinators and biodiversity while learning about the importance of healthy ecosystems. The partnership aims to inspire environmental stewardship in young people, improve wellbeing through outdoor learning, and create a lasting legacy for future generations of pupils.

The Ranger team regularly takes part in the Eco Schools Conference, organised by the Diocese, where schools from across Cornwall come together in Truro to showcase the environmental projects and nature

recovery work they have undertaken throughout the year.

At the conference, the Rangers run an interactive stand alongside a range of environmental and community organisations, providing opportunities to engage with pupils and teachers about practical ways to support nature. The team delivers hands-on, creative activities, such as building bug hotels, which help children learn about biodiversity and the importance of creating habitats for wildlife.

By participating in the conference, the Rangers inspire young people to take positive action for nature, share ideas and best practice between schools, and encourage a lifelong appreciation of the natural environment. The event provides a valuable opportunity to celebrate environmental achievements while empowering the next generation of nature champions.

What are we planning to do:

As a local resident, you can help by:

Volunteer to improve school grounds – Help create and maintain wildlife-friendly habitats such as wildflower areas, ponds, hedgerows and gardens.

Support tree and flower planting projects – Help schools plant native trees, shrubs and pollinator-friendly flowers.

Take part in wildlife surveys – Help pupils and staff record birds, insects, plants and other wildlife.

Share skills and knowledge – Offer knowledge of gardening, conservation, ecology and local wildlife to support environmental education.

Support outdoor learning – Encourage children to learn about nature through practical activities and direct experience.

Work with schools on environmental projects – Support projects such as pollinator pathways, community gardens and habitat restoration.

Donate materials or resources – Support school nature projects with tools, plants, seeds, bird boxes or other useful resources where possible.

Help with school and community clean-up events – Remove litter and improve local habitats for people and wildlife.

Promote nature-friendly practices beyond school grounds – Encourage children, families and local communities to take positive action for nature at home and in their neighbourhoods.

Be a role model for environmental responsibility – Lead by example and encourage young people to care for and protect nature.

Take part in wildlife surveys and Bioblitzes – Record local wildlife to help improve understanding of biodiversity.

Support wildlife-friendly management – Accept longer grass, native planting and less formal areas where these are being managed for biodiversity.

Leave areas of grass long throughout the year – Longer grass provides valuable habitat for insects and other wildlife.

Pick up litter – Removing rubbish helps protect wildlife and keeps green spaces clean and welcoming.

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Reduce mowing where safety allows – Less frequent mowing gives wildflowers and wildlife more opportunity to thrive.

Create species-rich wildflower grasslands – Wildflower areas provide habitat and food for insects, birds and small mammals. Whilst increasing biodiversity.

Protect and monitor existing mature trees and hedgerows – Established trees and hedges provide important habitat for wildlife.

Retain deadwood where safe to do so – Logs, branches and fallen trees provide valuable habitat for insects, fungi, birds and other wildlife.

Remove invasive species where appropriate – Help protect native habitats and species from invasive plants and other pressures.

Provide wildlife-friendly spaces – Gardens, ponds, hedges and longer grass can help provide food, shelter and safe movement routes for wildlife.

Record and report wildlife sightings – Contribute to local surveys and citizen science projects to improve knowledge of species and habitats.

Plant pollinator-friendly species – Add nectar and pollen sources to gardens, balconies, window boxes, streets and public spaces.

Reduce mowing and increase wildflower areas where appropriate – Support insects and improve biodiversity.

Incorporate green infrastructure – Support features such as green roofs, living walls, rain gardens and sustainable drainage.

Provide homes for wildlife – Install bird boxes, bat boxes and insect habitats where appropriate. Retain mature trees and deadwood where safe to do so.

Use climate-resilient planting – Choose plants suited to changing weather conditions and use water wisely.

Educate and inspire others – Share knowledge and encourage friends, family, neighbours and colleagues to take positive action for nature.

Respect wildlife habitats and natural play areas – Avoid disturbing wildflower areas, nesting sites, deadwood habitats, and newly planted vegetation

Assist with maintaining bird boxes, bat boxes, and insect habitats – Support local groups in monitoring and caring for wildlife features.

Use playing fields responsibly – Sticking to paths where appropriate, respecting planted areas, and caring for facilities helps ensure these spaces remain valuable for both people and nature.

Let the grass grow in part of your garden – Creating a small meadow area encourages wildflowers, pollinators, and other beneficial species.

Aim for some areas of medium grass. Cut these as often as you like but adjust the mower blade to a height of 10cm. This allows smaller wildflowers like daisies and speedwells to bloom.

Allow other areas to develop into longer, flowering meadows. Leave them uncut until mid-July onwards, then cut and rake them in July, August or Sept. Raking and removing the cuttings are crucial aspects of meadow management because they prevent soil enrichment and create bare ground for seeds to fall on and germinate. These practices enable wildflowers to flourish.

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Create a small wildflower area – Allowing grass and wildflowers to grow can increase biodiversity and support pollinators.

Retaining areas of longer grass for overwintering insects – Long grass provides important shelter where insects can hibernate and complete their life cycles during colder months.

Support reduced mowing in selected areas – Encourage acceptance of a more natural appearance where grass is being managed to benefit wildlife.

Plant native and pollinator-friendly flowers – Provide nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other insects, whilst supporting local biodiversity and helping maintain healthy ecosystems.

Let some grass grow longer – Longer grass provides food, shelter and habitat for insects and small animals.

Leave some leaf litter, logs and deadwood – These provide shelter and habitat for insects, fungi, hedgehogs and other wildlife.

Install wildlife boxes and habitats – Bird, bat, insect and hedgehog boxes can provide places to nest, shelter and rest.

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Theme 5: Parks and Gardens

Introduction

Victoria Gardens are historic formal Victorian gardens characterised by its structured layout, symmetrical flowerbeds, ornamental planting, and traditional features that reflect the aspirations and design principles of the Victorian era. While retaining its strong formal identity, the Gardens have gradually evolved through the influence of successive gardeners, each contributing additional structures, sculptures, and softer planting styles that have enriched their character over time.

Winding paths, shrubberies, mature trees, and quieter hidden corners create a sense of retreat and escape from the busy City centre and housing surrounding the Gardens. This balance between formal design and softer, naturalistic planting gives Victoria Gardens its distinctive semi-formal atmosphere, a place of relaxation and reflection, even when the bandstand is active with events and concerts.

Boscawen Park is a traditional public park providing a large and flexible open space for recreation, leisure, and community activity. The Park includes formal floral displays, a children's play area, sandpit, outdoor fitness equipment, sports pitch and extensive open grassland that allows space for informal play, cycling, scooting, walking, and other social interaction.

Scattered mature trees provide dappled shade across the Park, softening the landscape and contributing to the Park's character and climate resilience. Around the perimeter of the site, the Riverside Walk along the River Truro offers a quieter recreational route where visitors can enjoy the waterside setting and exercise dogs within a more natural environment.

On the opposite side of the road, the Trennick Mill Duck Pond provides a contrasting habitat area with shrub and herbaceous planting managed specifically with wildlife in mind. Together, these connected spaces create a balance between recreation, landscape quality, and biodiversity within an urban setting.

Moresk woodland Project

What do we have:

Boscawen Park - Formal garden, municipal park, sports pitch, tennis courts and tennis pavilion, cricket pitch, play area, duck pond, toilets, cafe, Boscawen Park Pavilionl, changing rooms, parking. (approx. 9ha)

Victoria Gardens - Late 19th century Gardens with waterfall gardens, play area and playing field, skate park, , toilets and cafe (approx. 4ha)

Library Garden - small community garden located at the back of Truro Community Library

What are we doing:

Victoria Gardens
Bins, litter picking
Formal planting (roses etc.) and maintenance
Weeding
Pest control
Formal mowing and mowing
Mulching
Shrubberies and Pruning
Path maintenance

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Tree work
Horticultural maintenance such as weeding, dead heading, etc.
Leat maintenance and management
Dead wood piles
Annual native wildflower bed
Pond and fountain with abundance of wildlife life
Removing invasive pond weed
Some Sustainable planting with insect friendly plants
Lower grassland slopes are cut once a year and wherever possible collected.
Leaves left to decay in the majority of borders.
Leaf much added to mature trees suffering from compaction.
Minimal chemical use on lawns.
Bird boxes throughout
Coppicing willow along leat and hazel by pond
Composting, reusing onsite materials, 95% of which is leaf mulch and grass cutting so as not to import compost and return nutrients and carbon to the flower beds.

Boscawen Park

Wildflower beds.
Wild wall with Bug boxes.
Bins
Leaving long grass under trees
Wildflower beds with dead wood mushrooms in them
Dead wood seals around the pond
Wildlife ring left around the pond
Bird boxes around pond and park
Dog walk is cut at path edge but allowed to grow outside

What are we planning to do:

Victoria Gardens

Maintain the higher slopes as more formal planting as you drop down through the Gardens blending into more native species rich wildflower and grasses.
Map gardens into formal, semi-formal, informal and create a basic plan
Vegetable beds
Single flower head species which are nectar rich
Leat and pond and water feature repaired
Introducing native species into the lower sections of grassland
Pond becoming a wildlife pond
Add shade tolerant wild grasses and flower mix to lower area
Large tree stump to be left and carved into a memorial.
Continue mulching flower beds
Using more sustainable planting
Removal invasive species i.e. bamboo near leat.
Removal of self seeded trees which are causing visual impacts to the designed landscape.
Install bat and bug boxes.
Tree replacement 1 in 1 out, looking at native and small specimen/structure/species where appropriate.
Running 1 or 2 volunteer morning a year

Boscawen Park

Permanent centres to flower beds to reduce pulling up and planting
Native wildflower seeds

As a local resident, you can help by:

Join community volunteer days – Help with planting, weeding, mulching, litter picking and general maintenance.

Support local volunteer and Friends groups – Help improve facilities, habitats and community engagement.

Take part in wildlife surveys and Bioblitzes – Record local wildlife to help improve understanding of biodiversity.

Take part in planting events – Help plant native trees, hedgerows, shrubs, community orchards and wildflower areas. Supporting pollinators and improving the urban environment.

Support wildlife pond projects – Volunteer with pond creation, restoration and habitat improvement.

Help maintain community gardens and growing areas – Support planting, watering, harvesting and general upkeep.

Respect planted and wildflower areas – Keep to paths and avoid trampling newly established habitats.

Support wildlife-friendly management – Accept longer grass, native planting and less formal areas where these are being managed for biodiversity.

Leave areas of grass long throughout the year – Longer grass provides valuable habitat for insects and other wildlife.

Report vandalism, damage and maintenance issues – Help protect green spaces, facilities and wildlife habitats.

Pick up litter – Removing rubbish helps protect wildlife and keeps green spaces clean and welcoming.

Take part in local consultations – Share ideas and help shape improvements to local parks and green spaces.

Use parks and green spaces responsibly – Respect habitats, facilities and other users while helping demonstrate the value of these spaces.

Encourage others to enjoy and care for local parks – Positive community involvement helps support their long-term protection and improvement.

Reduce mowing where safety allows – Less frequent mowing gives wildflowers and wildlife more opportunity to thrive.

Create species-rich wildflower grasslands – Wildflower areas provide habitat and food for insects, birds and small mammals. Whilst increasing biodiversity.

Plant native trees, shrubs and hedgerows – Provide food, shelter, nesting opportunities and improved habitat connectivity.

Protect and monitor existing mature trees and hedgerows – Established trees and hedges provide important habitat for wildlife.

Restore and create new hedgerows – Help connect habitats and provide food, shelter and nesting opportunities.

Retain deadwood where safe to do so – Logs, branches and fallen trees provide valuable habitat for insects, fungi, birds and other wildlife.

Remove invasive species where appropriate – Help protect native habitats and species from invasive plants and other pressures.

Keep dogs under control – Help prevent disturbance to wildlife and protect sensitive habitats. While keeping areas safe and clean for other users.

Pick up and dispose of dog waste responsibly – Reduce nutrient enrichment, pollution and risks to wildlife and other park users. Pathogens, nutrients and pollutants from waste can have a major disrupting effect on the natural balance of ecosystems.

Keep dogs out of natural water following spot-on treatments – Follow the product guidance and avoid polluting ponds, streams and rivers, or consider using oral or non-chemical alternatives.

Fit a bell to your cat's collar – A bell can provide wildlife with an early warning of an approaching cat, reducing their impact on local wildlife populations.

Provide wildlife-friendly spaces – Gardens, ponds, hedges and longer grass can help provide food, shelter and safe movement routes for wildlife.

Take part in wildlife surveys – Recording species can help monitor biodiversity and changes over time.

Record and report wildlife sightings – Contribute to local surveys and citizen science projects to improve knowledge of species and habitats.

Enjoy the countryside responsibly – Walking, cycling and exploring local areas can help build appreciation for the natural environment.

Plant more trees – Provide shade, cooling, carbon storage, food and habitat connectivity.

Protect and enhance existing green spaces – Support parks, gardens, churchyards, riversides, flower beds and community growing spaces.

Reduce mowing and increase wildflower areas where appropriate – Support insects and improve biodiversity.

Incorporate green infrastructure – Support features such as green roofs, living walls, rain gardens and sustainable drainage.

Enhance urban water features – Create habitat for wildlife and help manage surface water.

Provide homes for wildlife – Install bird boxes, bat boxes and insect habitats where appropriate. Retain mature trees and deadwood where safe to do so.

Reduce pesticide and herbicide use - Encourage more sustainable management of urban green spaces, which help pollinators, soil organisms and other wildlife, creating a healthier ecosystem.

Support community nature projects – Take part in volunteering, community gardening, wildlife monitoring and environmental education.

Use climate-resilient planting – Choose plants suited to changing weather conditions and use water wisely.

Educate and inspire others – Share knowledge and encourage friends, family, neighbours and colleagues to take positive action for nature.

Take part in local consultations and decision-making – Contribute ideas about the protection and enhancement of green spaces and provide feedback on existing projects.

Stick to the paths as leaving them can damage fragile plants, disturb wildlife, and increase soil erosion. Walking around muddy areas widens paths, destroys vegetation, and degrades the landscape. Help protect the countryside by staying on designated routes

Respect wildlife habitats and natural play areas – Avoid disturbing wildflower areas, nesting sites,

deadwood habitats, and newly planted vegetation

Assist with maintaining bird boxes, bat boxes, and insect habitats – Support local groups in monitoring and caring for wildlife features.

Use playing fields responsibly – Sticking to paths where appropriate, respecting planted areas, and caring for facilities helps ensure these spaces remain valuable for both people and nature.

Respect wildlife and habitats – Avoid disturbing nesting birds, pollinators, and other wildlife using city centre green spaces.

Manage grassland to encourage flowering plants – Appropriate mowing and cutting regimes can increase flowering and biodiversity.

Aim for some areas of medium grass. Cut these as often as you like but adjust the mower blade to a height of 10cm. This allows smaller wildflowers like daisies and speedwells to bloom.

Allow other areas to develop into longer, flowering meadows. Leave them uncut until mid-July onwards, then cut and rake them in July, August or Sept. Raking and removing the cuttings are crucial aspects of meadow management because they prevent soil enrichment and create bare ground for seeds to fall on and germinate. These practices enable wildflowers to flourish.

Create a small wildflower area – Allowing grass and wildflowers to grow can increase biodiversity and support pollinators.

Retaining areas of longer grass for overwintering insects – Long grass provides important shelter where insects can hibernate and complete their life cycles during colder months.

Support reduced mowing in selected areas – Encourage acceptance of a more natural appearance where grass is being managed to benefit wildlife.

Plant native and pollinator-friendly flowers – Provide nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other insects, whilst supporting local biodiversity and helping maintain healthy ecosystems.

Choose single-flowered plants where possible – These often provide easier access to nectar and pollen than double-flowered varieties.

Create a pond or small water feature – Provide drinking water and habitat for birds, insects, amphibians and other wildlife, while helping to increase biodiversity.

Let some grass grow longer – Longer grass provides food, shelter and habitat for insects and small animals.

Planting native trees, hedges and shrubs – Provide food, shelter and nesting opportunities for wildlife that have adapted to the local conditions.

Choose native plants where possible – Native species are well suited to local conditions and provide valuable food and habitat for wildlife.

Leave some leaf litter, logs and deadwood – These provide shelter and habitat for insects, fungi, hedgehogs and other wildlife.

Install wildlife boxes and habitats – Bird, bat, insect and hedgehog boxes can provide places to nest, shelter and rest.

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Theme 6: Countryside and Open Spaces

Introduction

The countryside and open spaces within Truro are more than simply attractive landscapes; they are essential assets that contribute significantly to the environmental, social, and cultural wellbeing of the community. These spaces provide opportunities for people to connect with nature, support biodiversity, preserve local character, and improve resilience to climate change.

Health and Wellbeing

Access to woodlands, meadows, and other green spaces plays a vital role in supporting both physical and mental health. Natural environments provide places for exercise, relaxation, reflection, and social interaction, helping to reduce stress, improve wellbeing, and strengthen community connections. Access to nature close to home is increasingly recognised as an important component of healthier and more resilient communities.

Cultural and Historic Value

The landscape also reflects the history of human settlement and land management within Truro. Historic field patterns, woodland boundaries, river corridors, and traditional meadows contribute to the identity and distinctiveness of local areas, helping communities maintain a strong connection with place and heritage.

Recreation and Connection to Nature

Open spaces support a wide range of everyday recreational activities including walking, cycling, relaxation, play, and informal socialising. Larger and more natural landscapes provide opportunities for longer visits and quieter experiences, encouraging people to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the natural environment.

With approximately 33 hectares of mosaic habitats across four sites, including lowland woodland, scrubland, wetland and traditional hay meadows. Through sensitive management and long-term stewardship, we will increase habitat diversity, improve ecological conditions, and support the recovery of native species.

We will prioritise nature-based solutions across these sites, using wetlands to reduce flood risk, woodland to provide urban cooling and carbon storage, and species-rich grasslands to support pollinators and enhance soil health.

At the same time, these landscapes will be places for people. Carefully planned access will enable residents to experience nature close to home without compromising sensitive habitats. A network of paths, interpretation, and quiet spaces will promote physical activity, mental wellbeing, and opportunities for learning and connection with the natural environment.

What do we have:

Friends of Groups

Friends of Daubuz Moor - Working alongside Truro City Council Countryside Rangers, the Friends of Daubuz Moor have built up not just a friendship but a love of nature's green spaces. The Group was formed in September 2021 and has around 20 members, the aim is to work with the Rangers and local community to promote the green space at Daubuz Moor for everyone to enjoy no matter their age, ability or social class. This is supported by holding events such as nature spotting, tree and flower identification/walks, BioBlitzs, litter picks and applying for external funding.

Friends of Coosebean - is a local voluntary community group established in 2020 to help facilitate sustainable access to Coosebean, Cornish for “little wood”, a beautiful natural area close to the centre of Truro. The site includes woodland, meadows and the River Allen, and supports a rich variety of wildlife and habitats.

The Friends of Coosebean acts as a voice for the local community, providing regular events and public meetings where local issues can be discussed, and practical maintenance and improvement projects can be planned and undertaken. The group is committed to promoting the benefits that access to nature brings to the wellbeing, health and quality of life of Truro's residents, while ensuring that the area remains welcoming and inclusive for everyone.

We work closely with the Truro City Council Countryside Rangers. Truro City Council owns the land and fully supports our activities and aspirations for the site.

The group organises monthly events throughout the year, including practical conservation and maintenance sessions such as litter picking, path management, coppicing and habitat enhancement, as well as educational and community engagement activities. These include guided walks and talks on topics such as bats, mosses, trees, biodiversity and the natural history of the area. Through these activities, Friends of Coosebean helps protect and enhance this valuable green space while encouraging people of all ages to connect with nature and become involved in caring for their local environment.

Daubuz Moor (wetland meadow/ wet woodland and river corridor) Approx. 6ha

Coosebean Woodland
-Southern High Wood, (oak woodland) approx. 6ha
-Riverside corridor, (wet woodland and river corridor) approx. 8.5ha
-The Haven, (meadow) approx. 0.1ha
-Northen Meadows, Rabbit Meadows, Butterfly Meadows, Cornish Crescent Meadows, and Compigney - Fields (scrub and meadows) approx. 7.6ha
- Sports pitch, approx.0.2ha

Beechwood Parc
– Glasteinan Woodland (mixed deciduous woodland) approx. 0.8ha
- Badger Fields (mixed deciduous woodland) approx.0.9ha

Treffry Road
– Nancemere Parc (Scrub, meadows and orchard) approx. 3ha

What are we doing:

Managing all our sites for public access and nature.

Managing small areas of meadows as traditional hay meadows.

Small areas of scrubland clearance

Reactive tree works

Path maintenance including strimming

Volunteer, community, and friends of groups

Citizen science bioblitzs

Kids activities

Bins/waste disposal

Creating an orchard

Creating dead wood piles

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Nature/wildlife surveys

-Bees

-Reptiles

-River quality

-Harvest mice

-Camera trapping

What are we planning to do:

Continue to do all of the above.
Create a 10-year plan with clear direction and understanding on how all 4 sites will be improved and managed for nature, public access and climate resilience.
Expand our nature/wildlife surveys
-Butterflies
-Birds
-Grasslands
-Amphibians
-Ancient and veteran trees
Start systematically removing invasive species from across all sites.
Bring our hazel woodlands back into a coppice rotation.
Manage our woodland for public access and nature.
Create dead wood habitats.
Create wetland scrapes.
Repair damage to our riverbanks (dogs).
Resurface our paths along the river edge where they were swept away in the winter storms of 2025/6.
Open up vehicle access points for better management of woodland and meadows.

As a local resident, you can help by:

Join community volunteer days – Help with planting, weeding, mulching, litter picking and general maintenance.

Support local volunteer and Friends groups – Help improve facilities, habitats and community engagement.

Take part in wildlife surveys and Bioblitzes – Record local wildlife to help improve understanding of biodiversity.

Take part in planting events – Help plant native trees, hedgerows, shrubs, community orchards and wildflower areas. Supporting pollinators and improving the urban environment.

Support wildlife pond projects – Volunteer with pond creation, restoration and habitat improvement.

Respect planted and wildflower areas – Keep to paths and avoid trampling newly established habitats.

Support wildlife-friendly management – Accept longer grass, native planting and less formal areas where these are being managed for biodiversity.

Leave areas of grass long throughout the year – Longer grass provides valuable habitat for insects and other wildlife.

Report vandalism, damage and maintenance issues – Help protect green spaces, facilities and wildlife habitats.

Pick up litter – Removing rubbish helps protect wildlife and keeps green spaces clean and welcoming.

Take part in local consultations – Share ideas and help shape improvements to local parks and green spaces.

Use parks and green spaces responsibly – Respect habitats, facilities and other users while helping demonstrate the value of these spaces.

Encourage others to enjoy and care for local parks – Positive community involvement helps support their long-term protection and improvement.

Reduce mowing where safety allows – Less frequent mowing gives wildflowers and wildlife more opportunity to thrive.

Create species-rich wildflower grasslands – Wildflower areas provide habitat and food for insects, birds and small mammals. Whilst increasing biodiversity.

Plant native trees, shrubs and hedgerows – Provide food, shelter, nesting opportunities and improved habitat connectivity.

Protect and monitor existing mature trees and hedgerows – Established trees and hedges provide important habitat for wildlife.

Restore and create new hedgerows – Help connect habitats and provide food, shelter and nesting opportunities.

Support traditional woodland and coppice management – Appropriate management helps maintain diverse woodland habitats.

Join woodland and coppice volunteer days – Help maintain and improve local woodland habitats.

Retain deadwood where safe to do so – Logs, branches and fallen trees provide valuable habitat for insects, fungi, birds and other wildlife.

Remove invasive species where appropriate – Help protect native habitats and species from invasive plants and other pressures.

Keep dogs under control – Help prevent disturbance to wildlife and protect sensitive habitats. While keeping areas safe and clean for other users.

Pick up and dispose of dog waste responsibly – Reduce nutrient enrichment, pollution and risks to wildlife and other park users. Pathogens, nutrients and pollutants from waste can have a major disrupting effect on the natural balance of ecosystems.

Keep dogs out of natural water following spot-on treatments – Follow the product guidance and avoid polluting ponds, streams and rivers, or consider using oral or non-chemical alternatives.

Fit a bell to your cat's collar – A bell can provide wildlife with an early warning of an approaching cat, reducing their impact on local wildlife populations.

Provide wildlife-friendly spaces – Gardens, ponds, hedges and longer grass can help provide food, shelter and safe movement routes for wildlife.

Take part in wildlife surveys – Recording species can help monitor biodiversity and changes over time.

Support hedgerow protection and restoration – Recognise the importance of hedgerows for wildlife and landscape character.

Join local conservation projects – Help with hedgerow planting, tree planting, orchard restoration, pond creation and habitat management.

Take part in tree and hedge planting events – Help connect habitats and increase biodiversity.

Record and report wildlife sightings – Contribute to local surveys and citizen science projects to improve knowledge of species and habitats

Join woodland and coppice management activities – Help maintain diverse woodland habitats.

Support natural flood management projects – Tree planting, wetlands and hedgerow restoration can help manage water and improve climate resilience.

Enjoy the countryside responsibly – Walking, cycling and exploring local areas can help build appreciation for the natural environment.

Enhance urban water features – Create habitat for wildlife and help manage surface water.

Provide homes for wildlife – Install bird boxes, bat boxes and insect habitats where appropriate. Retain mature trees and deadwood where safe to do so.

Reduce pesticide and herbicide use - Encourage more sustainable management of urban green spaces, which help pollinators, soil organisms and other wildlife, creating a healthier ecosystem.

Support community nature projects – Take part in volunteering, community gardening, wildlife monitoring and environmental education.

Protect riverside habitats – Respect wildlife and support efforts to improve water quality and habitat connectivity.

Use climate-resilient planting – Choose plants suited to changing weather conditions and use water wisely.

Educate and inspire others – Share knowledge and encourage friends, family, neighbours and colleagues to take positive action for nature.

Take part in local consultations and decision-making – Contribute ideas about the protection and enhancement of green spaces and provide feedback on existing projects.

Stick to the paths as leaving them can damage fragile plants, disturb wildlife, and increase soil erosion. Walking around muddy areas widens paths, destroys vegetation, and degrades the landscape. Help protect the countryside by staying on designated routes

Respect wildlife habitats and natural play areas – Avoid disturbing wildflower areas, nesting sites, deadwood habitats, and newly planted vegetation

Assist with maintaining bird boxes, bat boxes, and insect habitats – Support local groups in monitoring and caring for wildlife features.

Use playing fields responsibly – Sticking to paths where appropriate, respecting planted areas, and caring for facilities helps ensure these spaces remain valuable for both people and nature.

Respect wildlife and habitats – Avoid disturbing nesting birds, pollinators, and other wildlife using city centre green spaces.

Manage grassland to encourage flowering plants – Appropriate mowing and cutting regimes can increase flowering and biodiversity.

Aim for some areas of medium grass. Cut these as often as you like but adjust the mower blade to a height

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of 10cm. This allows smaller wildflowers like daisies and speedwells to bloom.

Allow other areas to develop into longer, flowering meadows. Leave them uncut until mid-July onwards, then cut and rake them in July, August or Sept. Raking and removing the cuttings are crucial aspects of meadow management because they prevent soil enrichment and create bare ground for seeds to fall on and germinate. These practices enable wildflowers to flourish.

Retaining areas of longer grass for overwintering insects – Long grass provides important shelter where insects can hibernate and complete their life cycles during colder months.

Support reduced mowing in selected areas – Encourage acceptance of a more natural appearance where grass is being managed to benefit wildlife.

Plant native and pollinator-friendly flowers – Provide nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other insects, whilst supporting local biodiversity and helping maintain healthy ecosystems.

Choose single-flowered plants where possible – These often provide easier access to nectar and pollen than double-flowered varieties.

Create a pond or small water feature – Provide drinking water and habitat for birds, insects, amphibians and other wildlife, while helping to increase biodiversity.

Let some grass grow longer – Longer grass provides food, shelter and habitat for insects and small animals.

Planting native trees, hedges and shrubs – Provide food, shelter and nesting opportunities for wildlife that have adapted to the local conditions.

Choose native plants where possible – Native species are well suited to local conditions and provide valuable food and habitat for wildlife.

Leave some leaf litter, logs and deadwood – These provide shelter and habitat for insects, fungi, hedgehogs and other wildlife.

Install wildlife boxes and habitats – Bird, bat, insect and hedgehog boxes can provide places to nest, shelter and rest.

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Theme 7: Residential Areas

Introduction

What do we have:

What are we doing:

What are we planning to do:

As a local resident, you can help by:

Share skills and knowledge – Offer knowledge of gardening, conservation, ecology and local wildlife to support environmental education.

Join community volunteer days – Help with planting, weeding, mulching, litter picking and general maintenance.

Support local volunteer and Friends groups – Help improve facilities, habitats and community engagement.

Support wildlife pond projects – Volunteer with pond creation, restoration and habitat improvement.

Respect planted and wildflower areas – Keep to paths and avoid trampling newly established habitats.

Support wildlife-friendly management – Accept longer grass, native planting and less formal areas where these are being managed for biodiversity.

Leave areas of grass long throughout the year – Longer grass provides valuable habitat for insects and other wildlife.

Report vandalism, damage and maintenance issues – Help protect green spaces, facilities and wildlife habitats.

Pick up litter – Removing rubbish helps protect wildlife and keeps green spaces clean and welcoming.

Take part in local consultations – Share ideas and help shape improvements to local parks and green spaces.

Reduce mowing where safety allows – Less frequent mowing gives wildflowers and wildlife more opportunity to thrive.

Create species-rich wildflower grasslands – Wildflower areas provide habitat and food for insects, birds and small mammals. Whilst increasing biodiversity.

Remove invasive species where appropriate – Help protect native habitats and species from invasive plants and other pressures.

Keep dogs under control – Help prevent disturbance to wildlife and protect sensitive habitats. While keeping areas safe and clean for other users.

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Pick up and dispose of dog waste responsibly – Reduce nutrient enrichment, pollution and risks to wildlife and other park users. Pathogens, nutrients and pollutants from waste can have a major disrupting effect on the natural balance of ecosystems.

Fit a bell to your cat's collar – A bell can provide wildlife with an early warning of an approaching cat, reducing their impact on local wildlife populations.

Provide wildlife-friendly spaces – Gardens, ponds, hedges and longer grass can help provide food, shelter and safe movement routes for wildlife.

Record and report wildlife sightings – Contribute to local surveys and citizen science projects to improve knowledge of species and habitats.

Plant more trees – Provide shade, cooling, carbon storage, food and habitat connectivity.

Plant pollinator-friendly species – Add nectar and pollen sources to gardens, balconies, window boxes, streets and public spaces.

Support the planting and protection of street trees – Trees provide shade, habitat, carbon storage and help reduce urban temperatures.

Reduce mowing and increase wildflower areas where appropriate – Support insects and improve biodiversity.

Incorporate green infrastructure – Support features such as green roofs, living walls, rain gardens and sustainable drainage.

Enhance urban water features – Create habitat for wildlife and help manage surface water.

Provide homes for wildlife – Install bird boxes, bat boxes and insect habitats where appropriate. Retain mature trees and deadwood where safe to do so.

Reduce pesticide and herbicide use - Encourage more sustainable management of urban green spaces, which help pollinators, soil organisms and other wildlife, creating a healthier ecosystem.

Let the grass grow in part of your garden – Creating a small meadow area encourages wildflowers, pollinators, and other beneficial species.

Aim for some areas of medium grass. Cut these as often as you like but adjust the mower blade to a height of 10cm. This allows smaller wildflowers like daisies and speedwells to bloom.

Allow other areas to develop into longer, flowering meadows. Leave them uncut until mid-July onwards, then cut and rake them in July, August or Sept. Raking and removing the cuttings are crucial aspects of meadow management because they prevent soil enrichment and create bare ground for seeds to fall on and germinate. These practices enable wildflowers to flourish.

Create a small wildflower area – Allowing grass and wildflowers to grow can increase biodiversity and support pollinators.

Retaining areas of longer grass for overwintering insects – Long grass provides important shelter where insects can hibernate and complete their life cycles during colder months.

Support reduced mowing in selected areas – Encourage acceptance of a more natural appearance where grass is being managed to benefit wildlife.

Plant native and pollinator-friendly flowers – Provide nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other insects, whilst supporting local biodiversity and helping maintain healthy ecosystems.

Choose single-flowered plants where possible – These often provide easier access to nectar and pollen than double-flowered varieties.

Let some grass grow longer – Longer grass provides food, shelter and habitat for insects and small animals.

Planting native trees, hedges and shrubs – Provide food, shelter and nesting opportunities for wildlife that have adapted to the local conditions.

Choose native plants where possible – Native species are well suited to local conditions and provide valuable food and habitat for wildlife.

Leave some leaf litter, logs and deadwood – These provide shelter and habitat for insects, fungi, hedgehogs and other wildlife.

Create gaps in fences – Small gaps allow hedgehogs and other wildlife to move safely between gardens and improve habitat connectivity.

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Theme 8: Roundabouts and Road Verges

Introduction

These often-overlooked areas of green spaces have the potential to be one of the best ways of connecting wildlife throughout the City. If managed appropriately, these areas can make a significant contribution to biodiversity and ecological connectivity, climate resilience, and landscape character.
Roadside verges and roundabouts have the potential to act as important wildlife corridors, linking parks, woodlands, rivers, gardens, allotments, and other habitats. They allow species to move through the landscape, helping to reduce habitat fragmentation and enabling plants and animals to disperse, feed, and reproduce.

Many verges support a surprising diversity of wildflowers, grasses, fungi, and insects. In some areas, roadside verges contain remnants of species-rich grassland that have disappeared from the wider countryside through agricultural intensification and development. These habitats can provide valuable nectar and pollen sources for bees, butterflies, hoverflies, and other pollinators, particularly where pollen rich flowering plants are.

Roundabouts and verges also provide habitat for birds, small mammals, reptiles, and invertebrates. Longer grasses, wildflower areas, hedgerows, shrubs, and scattered trees can offer shelter, nesting opportunities, and feeding resources throughout the year.

From a climate resilience perspective, vegetation along roads helps absorb carbon, improve air quality, reduce urban heat, and intercept rainfall. Deep-rooted plants improve soil structure and water infiltration, helping to reduce surface water runoff and contributing to natural flood management.

These places can also enhance the appearance and character of towns and cities. Wildflower-rich verges and planted roundabouts create a sense of pride, provide seasonal interest, and help bring nature into everyday city environments. For many people, roundabouts and verges create interaction to changing seasons that otherwise wouldn't be seen.

What do we have:

What are we doing:

The City Council has a Sponsorship of Roundabouts Policy which provide local businesses or organisations with opportunities to apply to sponsor a roundabout or landscaped area, embankment or verges at approaches to junctions in consultation with Cornwall Council, the Highways Authority.

What are we planning to do:

As a local resident, you can help by:

Plant native and pollinator-friendly flowers – Provide nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other insects, whilst supporting local biodiversity and helping maintain healthy ecosystems.

Choose single-flowered plants where possible – These often provide easier access to nectar and pollen than double-flowered varieties.

Let some grass grow longer – Longer grass provides food, shelter and habitat for insects and small animals.

Planting native trees, hedges and shrubs – Provide food, shelter and nesting opportunities for wildlife that have adapted to the local conditions.

Choose native plants where possible – Native species are well suited to local conditions and provide valuable food and habitat for wildlife.

Reduce pesticide and herbicide use - Encourage more sustainable management of urban green spaces, which help pollinators, soil organisms and other wildlife, creating a healthier ecosystem.

Leave some leaf litter, logs and deadwood – These provide shelter and habitat for insects, fungi, hedgehogs and other wildlife.

Let the grass grow in part of your garden – Creating a small meadow area encourages wildflowers, pollinators, and other beneficial species.

Aim for some areas of medium grass. Cut these as often as you like but adjust the mower blade to a height of 10cm. This allows smaller wildflowers like daisies and speedwells to bloom.

Allow other areas to develop into longer, flowering meadows. Leave them uncut until mid-July onwards, then cut and rake them in July, August or Sept. Raking and removing the cuttings are crucial aspects of meadow management because they prevent soil enrichment and create bare ground for seeds to fall on and germinate. These practices enable wildflowers to flourish.

Retaining areas of longer grass for overwintering insects – Long grass provides important shelter where insects can hibernate and complete their life cycles during colder months.

Support reduced mowing in selected areas – Encourage acceptance of a more natural appearance where grass is being managed to benefit wildlife.

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Theme 9: Playing Fields

Introduction

Although playing fields are often relatively poor in nature due to regular mowing required to maintain them as recreational areas, they have lots of potential to become wildlife-rich through small changes in management and a shift in expectations about how these spaces should look and function. By enhancing areas around the edges, playing fields can make an important contribution to nature recovery, climate resilience, and community wellbeing while continuing to fulfil their primary recreational purpose.

Playing fields are frequently among the largest open green spaces within the City and can/could act as green corridors, linking up the City and its surrounding habitats. Their size and strategic location mean they can provide valuable corridors for wildlife to move through the City and contribute to its wider ecological value.

There are many opportunities to increase the nature value of playing fields without compromising their recreational use. These include creating species-rich grassland and wildflower margins, planting native trees, community orchards, hedgerows, and scrub, and managing boundaries to provide habitat and connectivity for birds, bats, pollinators, and small mammals. Additional structures like bird boxes, bat boxes, and insect nesting sites, can further enhance wildlife/nature value.

Reducing mowing frequency in selected areas and collecting the arising can allow wildflowers to establish, increase nectar sources and improve habitat diversity. Such changes can transform underutilised grass margins into valuable wildlife habitats while reducing maintenance costs.

Playing fields also play an important role in helping cities adapt to climate change. Trees and vegetation provide shade and help cool areas during periods of hot weather, while healthy soils and natural drainage improve water infiltration, reduce surface water runoff, and contribute to carbon storage and improved air quality.

They also provide valuable opportunities for people to experience nature alongside recreation. Many residents, particularly children and young people, have regular contact with these spaces through sport, informal play, and everyday activities. Enhancing biodiversity/nature around playing fields can help foster a greater appreciation/understanding of nature while maintaining their primary recreational purpose.

Playing fields are especially important for children, providing opportunities for outdoor activities that support physical, social, emotional development. Access to natural features within these spaces helps strengthen children's connection with nature and can encourage lifelong healthy and environmentally responsible behaviours.

Natural play opportunities can often be created through simple interventions. Trees, wildflower areas, logs, sticks, leaves, pebbles, seed heads, mud, and puddles all provide resources that stimulate imagination, exploration, and learning. By integrating nature into playing field design and management, these spaces can become multifunctional landscapes that support sport, biodiversity, climate resilience, and community wellbeing.

What do we have:

Boscawen Park
Dreadnought Playing Field, Hendra
Kenwyn Playing Field
Malabar Playing Field
Newbridge Lane Playing Field
Redannick Playing Field
Tremorvah Playing Field

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What are we doing:

Tremorvah Playing Field mini-project

What are we planning to do:

Looking at rolling out nature where appropriate through other playing fields

As a local resident, you can help by:

Plant native and pollinator-friendly flowers – Provide nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other insects, whilst supporting local biodiversity and helping maintain healthy ecosystems.

Choose single-flowered plants where possible – These often provide easier access to nectar and pollen than double-flowered varieties.

Create a pond or small water feature – Provide drinking water and habitat for birds, insects, amphibians and other wildlife, while helping to increase biodiversity.

Let some grass grow longer – Longer grass provides food, shelter and habitat for insects and small animals.

Planting native trees, hedges and shrubs – Provide food, shelter and nesting opportunities for wildlife that have adapted to the local conditions.

Choose native plants where possible – Native species are well suited to local conditions and provide valuable food and habitat for wildlife.

Reduce pesticide and herbicide use - Encourage more sustainable management of urban green spaces, which help pollinators, soil organisms and other wildlife, creating a healthier ecosystem.

Leave some leaf litter, logs and deadwood – These provide shelter and habitat for insects, fungi, hedgehogs and other wildlife.

Manage grassland to encourage flowering plants – Appropriate mowing and cutting regimes can increase flowering and biodiversity.

Aim for some areas of medium grass. Cut these as often as you like but adjust the mower blade to a height of 10cm. This allows smaller wildflowers like daisies and speedwells to bloom.

Allow other areas to develop into longer, flowering meadows. Leave them uncut until mid-July onwards, then cut and rake them in July, August or Sept. Raking and removing the cuttings are crucial aspects of meadow management because they prevent soil enrichment and create bare ground for seeds to fall on and germinate. These practices enable wildflowers to flourish.

Retaining areas of longer grass for overwintering insects – Long grass provides important shelter where insects can hibernate and complete their life cycles during colder months.

Support reduced mowing in selected areas – Encourage acceptance of a more natural appearance where grass is being managed to benefit wildlife.

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Theme 10: Farmland

Introduction

Although there isn't much farmland within the parish of Truro it does make up a significant proportion of the landscape surrounding it and as such plays a crucial role in the City's nature recovery. While its primary function is food production, it also has the potential to support a wide range of wildlife and provide an important ecosystem for nature.

Many of the species traditionally associated with the countryside, from birds, pollinators, mammals, reptiles, and wildflowers, have adapted to the agricultural landscapes for their survival. Features such as hedgerows, field margins, ponds, woodlands, orchards, ditches, and species-rich grasslands provide essential habitats for wildlife and can act as corridors across it.

Farmland's nature value is of high importance as it often lies between or around woodlands, rivers, wetlands, and urban spaces, becoming the corridors for nature to travel between helping to reduce fragmentation and increase resilience. Well-managed farmland can therefore play a key role in creating a joined-up nature recovery network.

In addition to supporting biodiversity, farmland delivers important environmental benefits. Healthy soils help store carbon, improve water retention, and reduce erosion. Hedgerows, trees, and grassland help absorb carbon dioxide, improve air quality, and provide natural flood management by slowing the movement of water through the landscape.

This land also contributes to landscape character, cultural heritage, and people's connection to nature. Traditional field patterns, Cornish hedges, orchards, grazing meadows help define the area's identity and support opportunities for recreation, education, and wellbeing.

Hedgerows are often described as the countryside's "green arteries" because they connect habitats across the landscape and allow wildlife to move safely between woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, and urban spaces.

A well-managed hedgerow can support hundreds of species of plants, insects, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fungi, and lichens. Native hedgerow species such as hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, field maple, and holly provide nectar for pollinators, berries and nuts for birds and mammals, and shelter for nesting wildlife.

Beyond their biodiversity value, hedgerows help reduce soil erosion, improve water infiltration, store carbon, provide shelter for livestock, and help farmland adapt to climate change.

Coppicing is a traditional woodland management technique where trees are cut on a rotational cycle to encourage new growth from the base. This practice creates a diverse woodland structure with areas of different ages and light levels, supporting a wide variety of wildlife.

Many of Britain's most species-rich woodlands were historically managed as coppice. The regular opening of the woodland canopy allows sunlight to reach the woodland floor, encouraging wildflowers, shrubs, insects, butterflies and birds that would otherwise decline in dense, shaded woodland.

Together, hedgerows and coppice woodlands form a vital part of the ecological network within the farmed landscape. They help connect habitats that allow wildlife to move through the countryside, provide resilience against climate change, and help reverse biodiversity loss.

What do we have:

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What are we doing:

What are we planning to do:

As a local resident, you can help by:

Plant native and pollinator-friendly flowers – Provide nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other insects, whilst supporting local biodiversity and helping maintain healthy ecosystems.

Create a pond or small water feature – Provide drinking water and habitat for birds, insects, amphibians and other wildlife, while helping to increase biodiversity.

Let some grass grow longer – Longer grass provides food, shelter and habitat for insects and small animals.

Planting native trees, hedges and shrubs – Provide food, shelter and nesting opportunities for wildlife that have adapted to the local conditions.

Choose native plants where possible – Native species are well suited to local conditions and provide valuable food and habitat for wildlife.

Reduce pesticide and herbicide use - Encourage more sustainable management of urban green spaces, which help pollinators, soil organisms and other wildlife, creating a healthier ecosystem.

Leave some leaf litter, logs and deadwood – These provide shelter and habitat for insects, fungi, hedgehogs and other wildlife.

Provide food and water for wildlife – Bird feeders and water sources can provide valuable resources throughout the year.

Install wildlife boxes and habitats – Bird, bat, insect and hedgehog boxes can provide places to nest, shelter and rest.

Manage grassland to encourage flowering plants – Appropriate mowing and cutting regimes can increase flowering and biodiversity.

Aim for some areas of medium grass. Cut these as often as you like but adjust the mower blade to a height of 10cm. This allows smaller wildflowers like daisies and speedwells to bloom.

Allow other areas to develop into longer, flowering meadows. Leave them uncut until mid-July onwards, then cut and rake them in July, August or Sept. Raking and removing the cuttings are crucial aspects of meadow management because they prevent soil enrichment and create bare ground for seeds to fall on and germinate. These practices enable wildflowers to flourish.

Retaining areas of longer grass for overwintering insects – Long grass provides important shelter where insects can hibernate and complete their life cycles during colder months.

Support reduced mowing in selected areas – Encourage acceptance of a more natural appearance where grass is being managed to benefit wildlife.

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Theme 11: Water (Streams, Ponds and Ditches)

Introduction

Waterways are vitally important for both nature and society. Long before the development of railways and modern road networks, rivers and estuaries were essential transport corridors, enabling the movement of people, raw materials, and goods. They supported trade, provided food through fishing, supplied water for agriculture, and helped shape the growth and prosperity of communities. This is particularly true of Truro, which, like many inland ports, flourished during Cornwall's mining era through its connection to the surrounding waterways.

Today, rivers and estuaries continue to provide enormous benefits, not only for people but also for wildlife and the climate. Healthy waterways support a rich diversity of habitats, including reedbeds, mudflats, saltmarshes, and wet woodlands, which are home to countless species of birds, fish, insects, and mammals. They also act as important wildlife corridors, allowing species to move through the landscape and adapt to environmental change.

Waterways play a significant role in tackling climate change. Wetland habitats and estuarine environments can capture and store substantial amounts of carbon, helping to reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Natural vegetation along riverbanks stabilises soils, reduces erosion, improves water quality, and helps manage flood risk by slowing the flow of water during heavy rainfall. Protecting and restoring these habitats therefore benefits both biodiversity and local communities.

Truro itself reflects the importance of waterways, with its name thought to derive from the Cornish *Tri-veru*, meaning "three rivers". The city sits at the meeting point of several rivers, whose influence can still be seen today in the surrounding landscapes and wildlife-rich habitats. By helping people, especially young people, understand the value of these natural systems, we can foster a greater appreciation of nature, encourage environmental stewardship, and inspire action to protect the rivers, wetlands, and estuaries that sustain both wildlife and human wellbeing.

Ponds policy - add

What do we have:

Truro lies on the confluence of three rivers - the Kenwyn, the Allen and the Glasteinen.

The Kenwyn rises at Four Burrows and Shortlanesend. The two streams combine to the west of New Mills and flow along the valley to the north of Malabar and Coosebean, entering Truro city at Bosvigo Bridge, from whence it flows parallel to St Georges Road and then turns north to run along by the Leat and is culverted at River Street, until emerging briefly at the bottom of Lemon St, by Roberts Ope. It finally emerges at the east end of Lemon Quay and flows under ———Bridge to merge with the Allen/Glasteinen to form the Truro River.

The River Allen, also known as Dowr Alyn(Shining River) rises at St Allen and flows south through the Idless Valley and Daubuz Moor, thence parallel to St Clement St, which it flows beneath to re- emerge by the Cathedral at the Mill Pool and then on to Furniss Island, under the East Bridge and the New Bridge, where thé Glasteinen joins it and together they merge with the Kenwyn at Town Quay.

The Glasteinen is thought to rise somewhere near the old workhouse at the top of Tregolls Road. Also known as the Tinney, it flows down through the housing estates to the east of Tregolls Road, culverted under Tinney Drive. It is fed by springs in Glasteinen woods. It is culverted again under the lower part of Tregolls Road until it finally enters the Allen just past Sunley Orford House.

Thé Truro River and thé Tresillian River feed into the Fal, which rises in Goss Moor, at Trelissick. The Fal estuary is a ria - a low lying valley formed when sea levels rose after the last Ice Age. It is one of the world's deepest natural harbours and enters the English Channel at Carrick Roads.

Wildlife
The Kenwyn is known to have a healthy trout population. It also supports a variety of birds such as kingfishers, dippers, mallards, and a variety of dragonflies and other aquatic invertebrates. The banks have a variety of vegetation types, commonly seen on river banks. Pipistrelle and horseshoe bats feed along the valley on the fly population. Much of the river bank is occupied by mixed deciduous woodland, with attendant songbirds. Few mammals have been observed or detected, apart from Grey squirrels who live in the woodland.

The Allen also contains trout, which can be observed from its banks on Daubuz Moor. Further downstream, where the salt water meets with the fresh, bass may be spotted. Also mullet are commonly seen in quantity from the New Bridge. European eels are a IUCN red list species which travel from their Sargasso Sea spawning grounds and spend 8 to 15 years here. They have not been spotted in recent years, whether this is due to the perils of their long journey or the state of the river is unknown. Brook Lampey are another resident species and are a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.

The Allen flows through a species rich area from Daubuz Moor up to Idless. Attached to this document is a 2019 ERCCIS species survey of all plant and animal species observed on Daubuz Moor, which is a semi-natural area of 6 hectares, specifically managed by the City Council for nature.

The banks of the Fal are heavily wooded and these woods are remnants of the Atlantic Temperate Rainforests that once covered much of the entire west coastal areas of the UK mainland. These comprise native deciduous trees and are rich in ferns, fungi and bryophytes. Now reduced to remnants along the western coasts, they are incredibly important habitats and are now mostly protected under legislation.

The Truro River and Fal estuary form part of an internationally important estuarine system. The wider Fal estuary includes several Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), including the Upper Fal Estuary and Woodlands SSSI, and is also designated as the Fal and Helford Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in recognition of its important mudflats, estuarine habitats and wildlife.

The Truro River mudflats support many wading birds, some migratory. There are also large populations of herring gulls and black headed gulls, as well as swans and mallards.There is also a nearby heronry (a breeding colony of herons) opposite Malpas Village. Egrets are common around the area and some come inland to feed on the Allen at Moresk Bridge area.

What are we doing:

Water Quality
Both the Kenwyn and Allen are regularly tested as part of the West country Rivers Trust's Citizen Science Project. Results are available via Cartographer. At times of testing no pollutants have been identified, though it must be noted that testing only takes place at times of average water flow, and both rivers are muddy during high rainfall events. It is likely that phosphates from fertilisers on upstream farmland are washed down and then dumped when the flow lessens at the Truro River, which is heavily silted.

Both rivers have sewage outflow pipes, which allow the discharge of sewage under heavy rainfall conditions, to prevent back flow into premises. These are documented and the information available via South West Water and the Environment Agency.

Down river from Truro town is Newham Treatment Works. In 2017 this facility accidentally released a large quantity of microbeads and plastic nurdles into the river. These are very difficult to clear up and plastic fragments can still be found. The obvious damage is to marine life on south coast beaches, but any aquatic animals may ingest, causing starvation, ulceration, multiple organ failure and death.

What are we planning to do:

The following actions will help to create a healthier, more resilient river environment that supports nature recovery, improves climate resilience, and provides opportunities for people to connect with and value the

natural world. We will manage the riverbanks and surrounding public spaces with minimal use of chemicals, creating healthier conditions for wildlife, improving soil health, and encouraging a greater diversity of native plants, pollinators, birds, and aquatic species. By allowing nature-rich habitats to flourish, we can strengthen biodiversity along the river corridor and improve ecological connections between green spaces, creating a more resilient landscape for both wildlife and people.

We will protect sensitive riverbanks from erosion and collapse by discouraging off-path access and clearly defining walking routes with woodchip surfacing, particularly during the wetter winter months. This will help reduce trampling of vegetation and damage to river edges. Where necessary, damaged bank edges will be repaired, and designated access points for dogs will be provided to reduce pressure on vulnerable sections of the riverbank, minimising erosion, sediment loss, and disturbance to wildlife habitats.

We will also support the river's role in climate resilience and carbon storage by maintaining healthy riverside vegetation. Trees, shrubs, and other plants capture and store carbon, improve water quality, provide shade that helps regulate water temperatures, and create valuable habitat for wildlife. Through ongoing monitoring of water quality and river testing results, we will build a better understanding of the river's health and identify any emerging environmental issues. Working closely with other organisation such as Cornwall Council, Environment Agency etc. we will report and address concerns such as pollution incidents, invasive species, and sightings of dead or distressed fish. Alongside these practical measures, we will raise awareness of the importance of waterways as vital habitats for wildlife, natural carbon stores, and essential green-blue infrastructure that supports biodiversity, climate resilience, and community wellbeing.

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As a local resident, you can help by:

Install water butts or rain gardens - particularly if your drains run into a sewer to reduce pressure on the sewage system during heavy rainfall, which may otherwise contribute towards storm overflows spilling sewage.

Only flush the 3Ps (poo, pee, paper) down the toilet - Wet wipes (even 'flushable' ones), cotton buds and sanitary products can all create blockages contributing to sewage spills.

Think about what you put down the drains - Chemicals may harm aquatic wildlife and fats/oils contribute towards fatbergs forming, which may block sewage systems and cause spills.

Buy food from farmers with environmental and nature-friendly practices such as pesticide reduction and good soil management.

Buy and use less plastic products - and synthetic materials to reduce plastics and microplastics entering our water courses and join local litter picks, Clean Cornwall activities or Plastic Free Communities events.

Report pollution incidents - to the Environment Agency by calling the pollution hotline on 0800 80 70 60. You can also report muddy floods to Cornwall Council online.

Get to know your local river!-Find out how healthy your river is by checking the Environment Agency's Catchment Data Explorer website and take part in citizen science river monitoring schemes like Riverfly, Westcountry Rivers Trust's CSI project or the Big River Watch.

Prevent damage to riverbanks - keep to paths and encourage dogs to use recommended entry points to the river

River monitoring - keep an eye on your local rivers for signs of pollution, invasive species, and obstructions. Report any issues to the Environment Agency or the relevant land owner.

Keep dogs out of natural water following spot-on treatments – Follow the product guidance and avoid polluting ponds, streams and rivers, or consider using oral or non-chemical alternatives.

Reduce pesticide and herbicide use - Encourage more sustainable management of urban green spaces, which help pollinators, soil organisms and other wildlife, creating a healthier ecosystem.

Remove invasive species where appropriate – Help protect native habitats and species from invasive plants and other pressures.

Take part in wildlife surveys and Bioblitzes – Record local wildlife to help improve understanding of biodiversity.

Join community volunteer days – Help with planting, weeding, mulching, litter picking and general maintenance.

Support local volunteer and Friends groups – Help improve facilities, habitats and community engagement.

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Theme 12: City Centre

Introduction

City centres are great for nature and are essential for supporting mental and physical health, tackling climate change, conserving biodiversity, and maintaining strong, resilient communities. Even small areas of green space can be surprisingly rich in wildlife and have the potential to support a greater diversity of species than intensively managed agricultural land.

Despite being highly urbanised, Truro City Centre can play an important role in nature recovery. Parks, religious grounds, gardens, rivers, street trees, flower beds, hanging baskets, and other green spaces provide valuable habitats for wildlife and act as corridors connecting habitats across the landscape.

These spaces/corridors support birds, bats, pollinators, and many more species while delivering important environmental benefits, from urban cooling, carbon storage, improved air quality, to natural flood management. Flower beds and hanging baskets, while often planted and valued for their visual impact, can also contribute to urban biodiversity. When planted with a diverse range of nectar- and pollen-rich species, they provide important food sources for bees, butterflies, hoverflies, and other pollinating insects, particularly in areas where natural habitats are limited. Seasonal bedding displays with the right species can extend flowering periods throughout the year, providing a continuous source of nectar and enhancing the ecological value of the City Centre.

As climate change continues to affect our towns and cities, urban green infrastructure will play an increasingly important role in helping Truro adapt and become more resilient. The use of drought-tolerant planting, perennial species, and climate-resilient trees can help reduce water use while maintaining attractive and wildlife-friendly public spaces.

For many residents, the City Centre and its green spaces provide their most frequent contact with nature. They offer opportunities for recreation, relaxation, learning, and social interaction, contributing to physical health, mental wellbeing, and community cohesion. Nature-rich urban environments also enhance local character, attract visitors, and help create vibrant and attractive places to live, work, and visit.

By protecting, enhancing, and connecting green spaces throughout the City we can create a more wildlife-friendly, climate-resilient, and healthier urban environment that benefits both people and nature across Truro.

What do we have:

The City Centre is a mixture of urban and retail and non-retail businesses. There are no industrial operations. The houses are mostly older with gardens. Most of the centre is a Conservation Area, so all trees carry tree preservation orders (TPOs). The tree cover is good.

There are more formalised green areas - e.g., Cathedral Green, Rosewin Green, and Furniss Island, and many flower beds and planters. There are also verges and narrow pavement side beds, some of which are planted with pollinators as priority.

At Tremorvah Playing Field there is a playpark which has a small pitch and adult exercise equipment, as well as a children's play area. This is now subject to a gradual rewilding project, which will involve residents.

The River Allen flows through the urban area from Daubuz Moor and enters the Truro River at Worth's Quay. The banks are rich in greenery - cow parsley, hemlock, ferns. mosses, rushes. Egret and dipper may be spotted there, plus an occasional heron. Occasionally trout may be spotted. The water quality is generally good, but during storms the river carries a lot of soil with, possibly, slurry or agricultural chemicals.

The garden walls, being old and stone built, support plants like sedum, toadflax and small fXXXX?

There are a few areas that, apparently, don't 'belong' to anyone, which have become dense with bramble and other native and non-native species valuable to wildlife.

There are two large roundabouts on Morlaix Avenue. Fairmantle Street Roundabout has been recently planted with native plants courtesy of the Truro in Bloom Committee. Trafalgar Roundabout still hosts the iconic wooden hedgehogs, plus some young trees.

What are we doing:

This really depends upon who is responsible for maintenance. The City Council is working towards sustainable planting in council owned plots and a more nature friendly approach. There has to be compromise and work towards cultural change. Cornwall Council manages a lot of space, especially around former sheltered housing areas and it could be a lot richer in wildlife and offer a therapeutic space for residents, but emphasis is on efficiency and economy.

There are areas that are managed by the community that place an emphasis on nature. For example, the bed on Fairmantle, Tabernacle Streets, a couple of beds in Furniss Island and a nature bed near the law courts.

The Patchwork Garden CIC grows vegetables organically in a couple of beds in the central area.

Cathedral Green is partially managed for wildlife by a small group. There is nature-friendly planting, some healthy lime trees and a sympathetic mowing regime. A separate area, known as the Chantry Garden is beautifully managed by the occupiers of the Chantry.

The Council offer a hanging basket scheme which is available to private businesses and which is also provided to members of the Totally Truro Business Improvement District (who pay a subscription).

Truro in Bloom is a group of community volunteers which aspire to enter on an annual basis the Royal horticultural society, Britain in bloom campaign. This campaign is made up of 3 core pillars: horticulture, environmental responsibility and community participation.
The committee arrange regular volunteer days whereby they maintain certain patches of city center land (shady corner - top of castle street - where you will find bug hotels, log piles and a water feature and garden in a sustainable manner). (maintain the boys club garden on st Austall street, where there are bird boxes, tree bees and wildflower grasses and sun flowers. Chantery garden - shady wild area at the back of the cathedral, along with supporting the city council in general.

What are we planning to do:

The plan is to increase biodiversity by sustainable nature-friendly planting, using organic and permaculture principles. There needs to be a community approach, with people understanding the reason. We need to create green corridors that connect green spaces and, ultimately, the woodland areas that surround the town. The domestic garden sector is crucial here.

The best plants to grow are those that produce food for insects, promote pollination, food for birds and shelter for mammals. We need all year-round flowering and ground cover to slow evaporation during droughts that are becoming more common.

Chemicals should be avoided for both human and ecological health. The subject of pest control is one of the most divisive. On the one hand, pesticides provide a quick fix for dealing with aphids and other so-called pests. The RHS suggests Integrated Pest Management. where chemicals are a last resort, there is frequent monitoring and removal of diseased materials and predatory insects like hoverflies are encouraged. This is more time-consuming than pesticides but safer and cheaper and more sustainable. We also need, as a community, to tolerate weeds and the odd bit of damage an invertebrate might inflict.

Create pollinator-friendly planting schemes using native and nectar-rich species in parks, planters, roundabouts, and streetscapes.

Improve ecological connectivity by linking green spaces through tree-lined streets, hedgerows, planting corridors, and river corridors.

As a local resident, you can help by:

Help maintain community gardens and growing areas – Support planting, watering, harvesting and general upkeep.

Support wildlife-friendly management – Accept longer grass, native planting and less formal areas where these are being managed for biodiversity.

Leave areas of grass long throughout the year – Longer grass provides valuable habitat for insects and other wildlife.

Report vandalism, damage and maintenance issues – Help protect green spaces, facilities and wildlife habitats.

Pick up litter – Removing rubbish helps protect wildlife and keeps green spaces clean and welcoming.

Take part in local consultations – Share ideas and help shape improvements to local parks and green spaces.

Reduce mowing where safety allows – Less frequent mowing gives wildflowers and wildlife more opportunity to thrive.

Create species-rich wildflower grasslands – Wildflower areas provide habitat and food for insects, birds and small mammals. Whilst increasing biodiversity.

Provide wildlife-friendly spaces – Gardens, ponds, hedges and longer grass can help provide food, shelter and safe movement routes for wildlife.

Plant more trees – Provide shade, cooling, carbon storage, food and habitat connectivity.

Protect and enhance existing green spaces – Support parks, gardens, churchyards, riversides, flower beds and community growing spaces.

Plant pollinator-friendly species – Add nectar and pollen sources to gardens, balconies, window boxes, streets and public spaces.

Support the planting and protection of street trees – Trees provide shade, habitat, carbon storage and help reduce urban temperatures.

Reduce mowing and increase wildflower areas where appropriate – Support insects and improve biodiversity.

Incorporate green infrastructure – Support features such as green roofs, living walls, rain gardens and sustainable drainage.

Enhance urban water features – Create habitat for wildlife and help manage surface water.

Provide homes for wildlife – Install bird boxes, bat boxes and insect habitats where appropriate. Retain mature trees and deadwood where safe to do so.

Reduce pesticide and herbicide use - Encourage more sustainable management of urban green spaces, which help pollinators, soil organisms and other wildlife, creating a healthier ecosystem.

Support community nature projects – Take part in volunteering, community gardening, wildlife monitoring and environmental education.

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Protect riverside habitats – Respect wildlife and support efforts to improve water quality and habitat connectivity.

Create wildlife-friendly spaces at home and work – Even small gardens, courtyards, balconies and window boxes can provide useful habitat.

Use climate-resilient planting – Choose plants suited to changing weather conditions and use water wisely.

Educate and inspire others – Share knowledge and encourage friends, family, neighbours and colleagues to take positive action for nature.

Support local business and organisations that promote sustainability and biodiversity – Help encourage further environmental improvements across the city.

Take part in local consultations and decision-making – Contribute ideas about the protection and enhancement of green spaces and provide feedback on existing projects.

Help create a connected network of habitats – Making homes, gardens, parks, schools and community spaces more wildlife friendly, allows residents to help link up nature across the city helping support nature recovery in general.

Respect wildlife habitats and natural play areas – Avoid disturbing wildflower areas, nesting sites, deadwood habitats, and newly planted vegetation

Assist with maintaining bird boxes, bat boxes, and insect habitats – Support local groups in monitoring and caring for wildlife features.

Support and care for city centre green spaces – Respect parks, gardens, flower beds, hanging baskets, and planted areas that provide habitats for wildlife.

Respect wildlife and habitats – Avoid disturbing nesting birds, pollinators, and other wildlife using city centre green spaces.

Let the grass grow in part of your garden – Creating a small meadow area encourages wildflowers, pollinators, and other beneficial species.

Aim for some areas of medium grass. Cut these as often as you like but adjust the mower blade to a height of 10cm. This allows smaller wildflowers like daisies and speedwells to bloom.

Allow other areas to develop into longer, flowering meadows. Leave them uncut until mid-July onwards, then cut and rake them in July, August or Sept. Raking and removing the cuttings are crucial aspects of meadow management because they prevent soil enrichment and create bare ground for seeds to fall on and germinate. These practices enable wildflowers to flourish.

Create a small wildflower area – Allowing grass and wildflowers to grow can increase biodiversity and support pollinators.

Retaining areas of longer grass for overwintering insects – Long grass provides important shelter where insects can hibernate and complete their life cycles during colder months.

Support reduced mowing in selected areas – Encourage acceptance of a more natural appearance where grass is being managed to benefit wildlife.

Plant native and pollinator-friendly flowers – Provide nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other insects, whilst supporting local biodiversity and helping maintain healthy ecosystems.

Choose single-flowered plants where possible – These often provide easier access to nectar and pollen than double-flowered varieties.

Let some grass grow longer – Longer grass provides food, shelter and habitat for insects and small animals.

Planting native trees, hedges and shrubs – Provide food, shelter and nesting opportunities for wildlife that have adapted to the local conditions.

Choose native plants where possible – Native species are well suited to local conditions and provide valuable food and habitat for wildlife.

Leave some leaf litter, logs and deadwood – These provide shelter and habitat for insects, fungi, hedgehogs and other wildlife.

Install wildlife boxes and habitats – Bird, bat, insect and hedgehog boxes can provide places to nest, shelter and rest.

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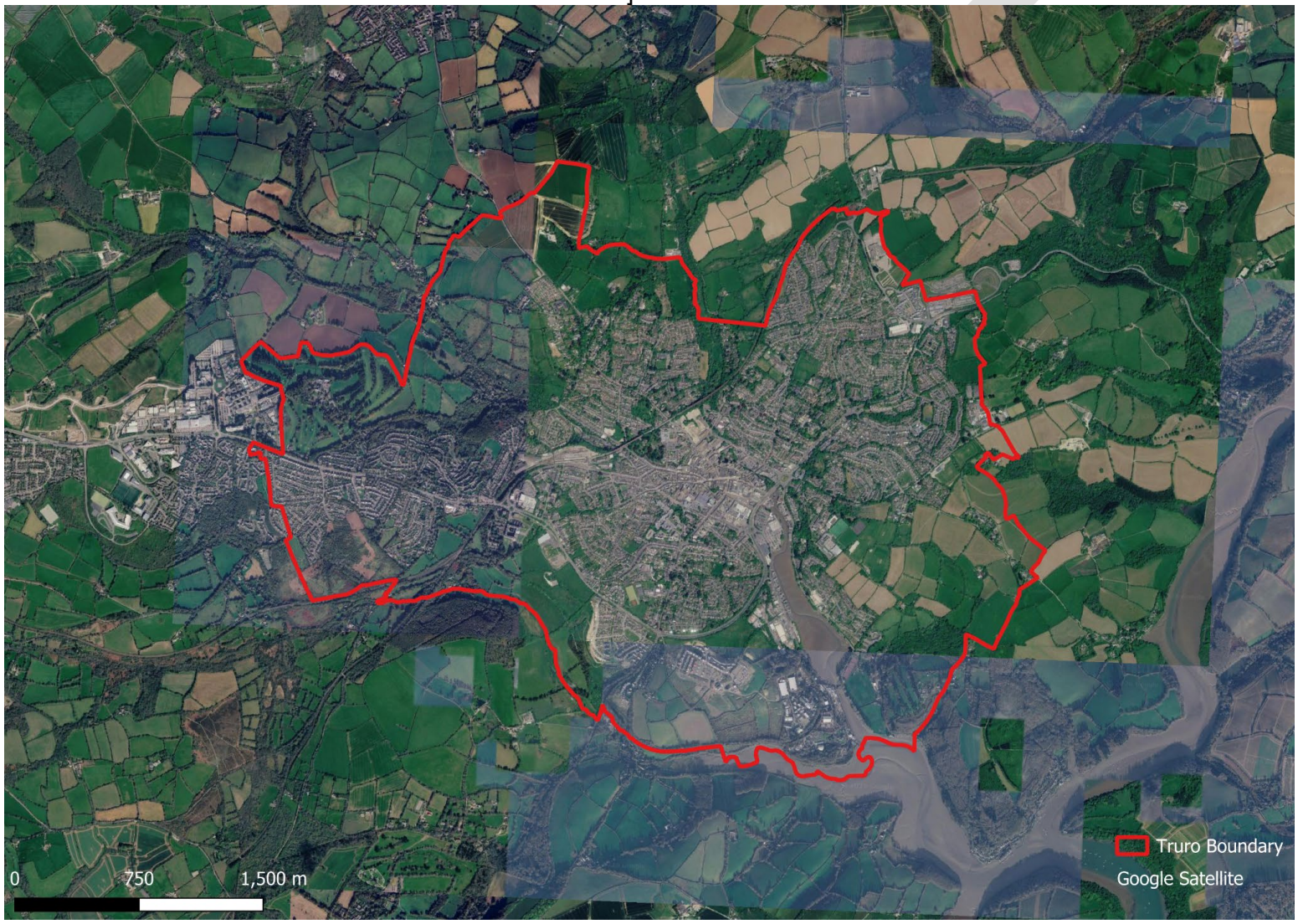
Appendix 1: Map of Truro

[this could be just a simple OS map of your parish (which ECDC could provide if you don't have), or, if you have the skills and resources, you could start to plot on it some of the features or actions identified in this Plan]



Appendix 2: Volunteer Directory

Volunteer group	Contact name	Contact number	Contact email
Friends of Coosebean			friendsofcoosebean@gmail.com
Friends of Daubuz Moor	John Farragher - Chairman		friendsofdaubuzmoor@outlook.com
Friends of Newbridge Park	Terry?		
Barrack Lane Allotment Group (BLAG)			
Rotary Club of Truro Boscawen			
Truro in Bloom Committee			
Cornwall Wildlife Trust	Jade?		
Friends of Sunny Corner	Paul Caruana		

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TRURO CITY COUNCIL

Nature Recovery Plan

Truro City Plan

2026-2036

Review Every 3 Years

TRURO CITY COUNCIL
Nature Recovery Forum

Topic	Contribution to Nature Recovery Strategy	Purpose and Key Objectives	Resource requirements	Current Position	Delivered by
Develop nature recovery strategy	The purpose to the Forum is to develop a strategy	The main purpose of the Forum is to develop a strategy and implementation plan	Forum, Countryside Ranger Team Parks and Amenities Officer	On 28 July there was a further drafting session to which the Forum was invited.	Chair and Vice-Chair
Nature Towns and Cities Accreditation	Seeking accreditation may provide a useful framework	Demonstrates commitment to transforming green infrastructure to benefit people place and nature	Forum, Countryside Ranger Team and Parks and Amenities Officer	At the June meeting the Forum agreed to defer any action pending drafting of the plan.	Chair, Vice-Chair and Ms Douglas-Martin
Mini-Project at Tremorvah Playingfield	To engage with local people and interest groups	Create traditional grassland meadow, hibernaculum/compost area and orchard. Improve biodiversity.	Countryside Ranger Team and Parks and Amenities Officer. £295 allocated by P&AC.	On 2 March the P&AC agreed to the establishment of the mini-project. Logs delivered on site. Grass scarification next. Leaflets to be delivered to local residents about the project.	Parks Department
Establishment of Biological Recording Group	To establish a local biological recording group to collect & strengthen base evidence of state of nature in Truro.	Improve biodiversity data coverage for Truro & assist in monitoring long-term trend.	Countryside Ranger Team and Parks and Amenities Officer	The Forum welcomed the establishment of such a group independent of the Council (like friends' groups). Countryside Ranger Team to make links to other interest groups.	Chair and Vice-Chair

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Forum logo	To engage with local community	To share commitment to conserve & enhance biodiversity	Events Officer, Communications Team, Countryside Ranger Team and Parks and Amenities Officer	P&AC on 08.06.26 approved the logo.	Chair and Vice-Chair
Survey	To engage with members of the public	To provide relevant data base to support development of strategy	Forum, Visit Truro and Digital Communications Manager, Countryside Ranger Team and Parks and Amenities Manager. £1295.35 funding is available	The Parks and Amenities Manager, Chair and Vice-Chair met with the Visit Truro and Digital Communications Manager and Events Officer to discuss ideas. An idea for a public survey by a specialist provider was suggested.	Communications Team
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal & Biodiversity Net Gain Metric of land at Comprigney Hill (Coosebean)	Survey requested by Land at Comprigney Hill (Coosebean) Steering Group. Activity aligned to Forum	Collect & strengthen base evidence of state of nature	Land at Comprigney Hill (Coosebean) Steering Group Specialist contractor	Survey requested by Steering Group and commissioned By Council via P&AC. Reported back to Group on 20.07.26 and onward recommendations to Council 27.07.26. Group to consider recommendations further at its next meeting together with Friends of Coosebean to develop consultation plan to feed into development plan. Council agreed winter months management in line with report recommendations & within existing Parks budget.	Parks and Amenities Manager

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Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Sustainability Awards (CSA)

Don’t delay, apply or nominate today!

Could you be a winner? Entries for the 24*th* Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Sustainability Awards (CSA) are now open. Any organisation based in Cornwall or the Isles of Scilly can apply or be nominated in up to 2 categories.

The closing date is *31st October*. Judging will take place in November and the results will be announced in December.

This year’s categories are:

- Circular Economy
- Carbon Reduction
- Forest for Cornwall – Growing Together
- ***NEW*** Leading Light
- Nature Recovery
- Most Sustainable Organisation
- Sustainable Food or Drink
- *__NEW__* Working Together – Social Sustainability *__CASH PRIZE__*

The Overall Winner is chosen from the winners of all the categories.

To enter for FREE go to the website here www.cornwallsustainabilityawards.org. It's easy to enter online, this is your time to shine!

Many of our winners go on to win sectoral, regional or national awards, as well as gaining more recognition, more business, and funding to expand their work.