

1.0 Glasgow Local Biodiversity Action Plan Monitoring 2024 2025

1.1 This annual monitoring report has been compiled with the support of the Council's partners in the Glasgow Biodiversity Partnership. The purpose of the partnership is to bring a broad range of expertise to the development of Glasgow's Local Biodiversity Action Plan. The Council established a Glasgow Biodiversity Partnership consisting of representatives from 18 different environmental organisations. Key partners include NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Scotland) along with other environmental interest groups.

1.2 The Council announced a Climate and Ecological Emergency in May 2019. The implementation of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Pollinator Plan play a vital role in addressing these emergencies through protecting, enhancing, and creating biodiverse habitats, protecting and enhancing a diversity of species; and providing nature-based solutions to support climate mitigation and adaptation.

1.3 Under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004), all public bodies in Scotland are required to further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their responsibilities. The Council fulfils this primarily through the implementation of the Glasgow Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act (2011) further requires public bodies in Scotland to provide a publicly available report, every three years, on the actions they have carried out to meet the biodiversity duty.

1.4 Scotland faces an unprecedented nature-climate crisis. In light of mounting evidence that Scotland continues to experience dramatic declines in biodiversity, the Scottish Government has set out an ambitious new framework to halt biodiversity loss and be Nature Positive by 2030 and to have restored and regenerated biodiversity across the country by 2045. The Local Biodiversity Action Plan Delivery Plan supports the new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and its Delivery Plan by implementing actions at a local level.

1.5 The Local Biodiversity Action Plan Red Amber Green report (appendix 2) shows how the 95 Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Pollinator Plan actions are progressing using Green for actions achieved, ongoing or underway; Amber for ongoing or delayed; Red for no progress. For 2024/25 progress, 80 actions are green, 15 actions are amber.

Amber:

Grassland action 4. Lead Agency reported that they delivered other priorities during this reporting period. Will review action timescale.

Grassland action 11. Lead Agency reported that they delivered other priorities during this reporting period. Will review action timescale.

Wetland action 8. Lead Agencies reported that they delivered other priorities during this reporting period. Will review action timescale. Wetland action 10. Lead

Agencies reported that they delivered other priorities during this reporting period. Will review action timescale.

Wetland action 11. There has been considerable action in 2025/26, and this action will be 'green' for that reporting period.

Wetland action 16. No report from Lead Agency.

Wetland action 18. No report from Lead Agency.

Wetland action 20. No report from Lead Agency.

Wetland action 21. NatureScot promotes this information via website and national activity. NRS will review level of promotion which will be delivered locally in 26/27.

Farmland action 4. No report from group.

Pollinator Plan action 3. Lead Agencies reported that they delivered other priorities during this reporting period. Will review action timescale.

2.0 Biological Audit

As of March 2025, there were 1,183,824 biological records in Glasgow Museums Biological Records Centre's database. The majority of these cover the Glasgow City Region. 102,797 new records were added between April 2024 and March 2025.

The main sources of information were: British Trust for Ornithology Birdtrack, moth recorders and other local naturalists, and NRS Biodiversity / greenspace staff.

There were 180 new species added to the Glasgow Species Audit. This is specifically for the Glasgow City Council area. The new species include:

- Scottish Biodiversity List species: Tan Pinkgill fungus (*Rhodocybe gemina*), Fabricius' Nomad Bee (*Nomada fabriciana*) and Heath Rustic moth (*Xestia agathina*)
- Notable / Scarce species: Adonis' Ladybird (*Hippodamia variegata*), the weevil *Polydrusus mollis*, and the fungus gnat *Keroplatus testaceus*

The discovery of new species in Glasgow is mainly due to increased recording effort by species experts, volunteers and citizen science. Habitat creation and positive management also contribute by providing space for species to thrive.

3.0 Local Nature Reserves

The following were declared in 2024/25:

- Castlemilk Park (Scotland's 100th Local Nature Reserve)
- Cathkin Braes Local Nature Reserve (extension),
- Cranhill Park,
- Croftfoot,
- Early Braes
- Garscadden Burn

39 hectares of Local Nature Reserves were managed.

Hamiltonhill Claypits Local Nature Reserve featured in an episode of Landward on the BBC. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0024388/landward-2024-episode-18>

4.0 Key Projects

4.1 Green Connectors

Creating and enhancing greenspaces across the city through meadow, hedgerows and woodland planting, connecting habitats to form Glasgow's Nature Network.

- 13,000 wildflower plugs were planted across the city.
- 500,000 daffodils were machine planted, covering approx. 12,500m².
- Over 17,000 tree whips were planted.
- 1216 standard trees were planted.
- 1435 metres of hedgerow planted.
- Woodmeadow habitat was created at Knightswood Park and Maryhill Park, approx. 4 hectares in total.
- RSPB identified and planted in 4 areas across Springburn – creating 2 hectares of species-rich grasslands.

4.2 Royal Society for the Protection of Birds North Glasgow Greener Futures

The project delivered:

- 3 hedge planting sessions with Springburn Youth & Springburn Hub volunteers at the Benches area
- 2 plug planting sessions at the Benches area
- 5 plug planting sessions with volunteers and local community
- 2 hedge planting sessions with Friends of Springburn Park
- Overall planted – 7000 plug plants, 15kg of wildflower seed, 1200 hedge whips.
During sessions, prepped the ground and promoted what we were doing after April 2025
- Recruited practical conservation volunteers.
- Also, during Natural History Museum training sessions, discussed the project work with participants.

4.3 Water Vole Conservation

- University of Glasgow Masters by Research completed ‘How does urbanisation affect the abundance and genetic diversity of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) populations in Glasgow?’ This research also establishes a tested methodology for further research opportunities on genetic diversity through the use of non-invasive hair samples.
- BBC Springwatch 2024 featured water voles at Avenue End Primary School.
The final week of the Scottish Springwatch tour was based in Glasgow to uncover and discover the urban wildlife that can be found in and around one of Scotland’s most industrious cities. As well as the unique Glasgow water voles, the programme filmed the Glasgow Peregrine Project, research on kestrels and the wonderful world of macro photography.

4.4 Grassland

- The Conservation Volunteers monitored rare plants at Cathkin Braes: Mountain Pansy (14 plants found), Marsh Violet (25 plants found) and Burnet Saxifrage (27 plants found).

4.5 Wetland

- Enhancing Wetland Habitats at Hogganfield Park Local Nature Reserve - Working with the Seven Lochs Wetland Park, Friends of Glasgow's Local Nature Reserves received a grant (£13,460) from the 'Neighbourhood Ecosystem Fund' aimed at restoring, creating and enhancing wetland habitats at Hogganfield Park Local Nature Reserve for the benefit of wildlife and people.
- Biohavens Monitoring – Friends of Glasgow's Local Nature Reserves monitored the usage of five Biohavens at Hogganfield Park Local Nature Reserve. These were installed in April 2016 and have proved popular with birds using them to nest, rest and preen.
- Yorkhill Green Spaces group created 2 additional Bog Gardens in Yorkhill Park maintained and surveyed for aquatic hoverfly larvae in autumn 2024. Planting included Marsh marigold (*Caltha Palustris*), Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) native Marginal plants. Water Forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*), Water Mint (*Mentha Aquatica*), Water Avens (*Geum Rivale*), Ragged robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), Meadow Sweet (*Filipendula Ulmaria*), *Stachys officinalis* (Betony).

4.6 Urban Parks & Open Spaces

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Swift volunteers commented on 6 planning applications to ask for Swift Bricks to be included in 2024.

4.7 Urban Awareness Raising

4.7.1 NRS Countryside Rangers carried out the following:

- Pollok Country Park Flower Power Nursery raised 800 wildflowers.
- Supported 40 community groups and interacted with almost 5000 people on biodiversity.
- Led 21 events with almost 500 participants.
- Carried out 70 Curriculum for Excellence visits to 38 schools and nearly 2000 pupils using 16 city parks.

4.7.2 Royal Society for the Protection of Birds run weekly events at Kelvingrove Museum to raise awareness of birds and other wildlife. They ran 39 activities in Kelvingrove during this period. Engaged with approximately 1825 participants. Also took part in Kelvingrove Museums 'Twilight' event in November, ran a bee workshop and a 'Rewilding Glasgow Challenge' LEGO workshop. Engaged with 54 young people.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds also ran 3 City Nature Challenge bioblitzes in Eastfield Park, Springburn Park and Glasgow Botanic Gardens. For the bioblitz in the Botanics, they were joined by TCV, Glasgow Natural History Society, Butterfly Conservation and Froglife. Engaged with approx. 116 participants. Also shared the City Nature Challenge with Royal Society for the Protection of Birds reserves and local organisations that we have worked with.

Final figures were: 1068 observations; 447 species; 211 identifiers; and 86 observers.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds delivered: 90 Outdoor Learning sessions reaching 24 nursery pupils; 1482 primary school pupils; and 520 secondary pupils.

- 5 Kelvin College Sessions; 2 sessions with Clyde College; 7 sessions with LGBT Youth; Get Started Programme with the Prince's Trust (5 sessions)
- Delivered 1 teacher training session in Elmvale Primary School (Springburn) with 14 participants.
- Delivered 6 Ambassador school sessions with Sunnyside Primary School (Craigend), reaching 44 pupils.
- Delivered 5 plug planting sessions with Elmvale Primary School, working with 123 pupils.

4.8 Community Involvement

Many citizens volunteer in Glasgow's greenspaces and contribute positively to them. Volunteers benefit too from increased health and wellbeing.

4.8.1 The Conservation Volunteers have carried out the following:

- Worked with over 17 community groups and over 600 volunteers to enhance Glasgow's biodiversity.
- Delivered 1006 workdays in 50 unique sites with 52% within Glasgow's most deprived neighbourhoods.

4.8.2 Royal Society for the Protection of Birds have a range of volunteers:

- 7 biological recording volunteers across Glasgow, 15 practical conservation volunteers, 6 events volunteers

4.8.3 Friends of Parks groups in the city carry out a vital role in protecting, enhancing and promoting our parks and greenspaces. Friends of Groups undertake projects, events and activities in their local patch.

- Friends of Glasgow's Local Nature Reserves continued to enhance the planters created as part of their Shelters Upgrade at Hogganfield Park Local Nature Reserve undertaken in previous years. This also incorporated litter picks and the monitoring of fauna benefitting from the flowers and other plants.
- Friends of Glasgow's Local Nature Reserves monitored bird box usage at Dawsholm Park (20 boxes used), Hogganfield Park (8 boxes used), Bingham's Pond (all 3 boxes used), Cardowan Moss (3 boxes used), Dams to Darnley (3 boxes used), Bishop Loch (2 boxes used).
- Friends of King's Park established two fruit guilds containing three fruit trees each, underplanted with current and berry bushes, perennials and herbs and low growing edibles (rhubarb and strawberries).
- Langside Sports Club Bio Group (Albert Park) planted a native hedgerow and a 'dead hedge' and maintained areas of flowering and wildflower plants to provide nectar and pollen sources for pollinators.
- Glasgow Natural History Society members made significant contributions to the Glasgow Museums BRC database with sightings made at events and on their own personal excursions, also from butterfly transects and regular moth-trapping.
- Glasgow Natural History Society members participated in several GALLANT activities and consultations.
- Wyndford Community Group maintained a 'Bed for Bees', planted a 'Fruits and Flowers' bed and a raised bed of vegetables for children's nursery which included wildflowers.
- Yorkhill Green Spaces planted over 800 pollinator-friendly spring bulbs, 100 bluebells and 1000 crocuses.
- Yorkhill Green Spaces collected wildflower seed in Overnewton Park and Yorkhill Park during 2024; this was sown in new areas to help with sustainability with 500 g of new seeds were sown in all three parks in the area.
- Yorkhill Green Spaces were awarded a Green Flag Award and a level 5- Outstanding and Certificate of Distinction for management of green spaces in Yorkhill and improving them for the local community and wildlife.

4.9 Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partners

Buglife

Butterfly Conservation (Scotland)

Clyde River Foundation

Friends of Glasgow's Local Nature Reserves

Froglife

Glasgow City Council

Glasgow Life

Glasgow Museums Resource Centre

Glasgow Natural History Society

NatureScot

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Scotland)

Scottish Canals

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Scottish Ornithologists' Club

Scottish Wildlife Trust

Seven Lochs Wetland Park

The Conservation Volunteers

Urban Roots