

Biodiversity Action Programme for Worcester City Council 2021-2023

Ref. no	Title	Project / work package description	Financial cost and budget	Ownership	Start date	End date
Bio-1	Review of all Management Plans to enhance for biodiversity	Review existing management plans to consider opportunities to identify additional opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, across conservation sites, Green Flag parks and other green spaces	Estimate £7.5k (link with Bio-2) External resource or in-house if available	Environmental Operations	Spring 2022	Summer 2022
Bio-2	Establishment of Management Plans for wildflower-rich roadside verges	Formalise a new management approach to road verges in order to allow wildflowers to flourish and agree a phased approach for the roll out of this new approach across the city, bearing in mind the need for cut and collect mowing machines. Linked to Bio-13, ensure effective signage and interpretation of these sites.	Within budget for Bio-1. Capital expenditure from vehicle replacement programme likely to be required to implement.	Environmental Operations	Spring 2022	Summer 2022

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Bio-3	Identification of new sites for wildflowers meadows	Feasibility surveys to be undertaken for new wildflower meadows / roadside verges to be managed as wildflower meadows	Existing resource	Environmental Operations	Winter 2021	Autumn 2022
Bio-4	Tree planting	Seek to maximise the tree canopy across the city with identification of new areas and implement new tree planting schemes where possible. Review previous planting schemes to assess impact and survival rates. Ensure appropriate maintenance and identify any actions required to improve survival rates.	To be identified Likely to be grant funding opportunities	Environmental Operations	Winter 2021	Spring 2022 (then repeated annually)
Bio-5	Biodiversity enhancement at Astwood and St John's Cemeteries	Continue work to increase numbers of bird and bat boxes on these sites. Build and maintain log piles to attract reptiles such as slow worms. Develop areas of long grassland in specific areas, with interpretation boards explaining habitat provision for small mammals etc. All areas to be mown around the edges.	Existing Resources	Bereavement Services	Winter 2021	Summer 2022

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Bio-6	King George V Playing Fields	Develop areas of rough grassland aimed at increasing slow worm and wildflower habitat and explain their purpose via interpretation board on King George V Playing fields.	Existing resource	Environmental Operations	Spring 2022	Autumn 2022
Bio-7	Enhancement of Lyppard Ponds Special Area of Conservation (link to ESS-16)	Seek to secure and enhance biodiversity within the Lyppard Ponds habitat by restoring optimum habitat for great crested newts. (This is an existing action in the Environmental Sustainability Strategy Action Plan)	TBC	Environmental Operations	Spring 2022	Winter 2022
Bio-8	Waterways biodiversity enhancement (link to ESS-17)	Commission research into the opportunities to enhance biodiversity along watercourses in the city (already outlined as an action in the Action Plan for the Environmental Sustainability Strategy)	External resource required. Estimate £7.5k Env Sust budget	Environmental Operations	Autumn 2021	Winter 2022

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Bio-9	Allotment holders guidance on biodiversity	Include guidance on encouraging biodiversity within allotment sites' tenancy agreements	No cost	Environmental Operations	Winter 2021	Winter 2021/Spring 2022
Bio-10	Support for Wilder Worcester and Diglis Island projects	Play an active role in Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's Wilder Worcester campaign to increase community engagement with enhancing biodiversity on their local patches, and the Severn Rivers Trust project on Diglis Island.	None	Community engagement	Winter 2021	To end of projects
Bio-11	Biodiversity promotion in Council comms	Promote biodiversity in Council communications and support national campaigns like Butterfly Survey, Bird Count and Spring Clean	None	Communications	Winter 2021	Ongoing
Bio-12	Committee report template update to consider biodiversity	Update the template for committee reports in order to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account, ensuring that reference is made to the	None	Democratic and Civic Services with Env. Sustainability Officer	Winter 2021	Spring 2022

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		declared biodiversity emergency as well as the climate emergency, and that impact on wildlife and wildlife habitats is considered. (This work links to the governance work in the Environmental Sustainability Strategy Action Plan.)				
Bio-13	Signage & Interpretation	Consider additional signage and interpretation boards to explain management for conservation approaches to local residents / general public. Link to Bio-1 and Bio-2.	TBC	Environmental Operations	Spring 2022	Autumn 2023 (on completion of all projects)
Bio-14	Member training on biodiversity	Training for all members and then each year for new members on nature conservation	Member training budget, delivered externally	Democratic and Civic Services	Spring 2022	Spring 2022 (embedded in normal training routine going forward)
Bio-15	Operative training on biodiversity	Training of operatives in nature conservation – opportunities, what to change, what the new planned approach is, how to ensure that areas still look 'managed' and not neglected	TBC (Corporate training budget)	Environmental Operations	Spring 2022	Spring 2022 (embedded in normal training routine going forward)