



Nottinghamshire & Nottingham

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

User Guide for Residents, Volunteers and Community Groups

November 2025

working in partnership



Nottinghamshire
County Council



Nottingham
City Council

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1. The role of Residents in nature recovery

Individuals, local groups and communities can always play a part in nature recovery. We all have a responsibility to protect the natural environment, both locally and globally. From volunteering to wildlife-friendly gardening and general advocacy, there are small changes you can make to help nature to recover in our gardens, workplaces and the green spaces near where we live.

Gardens in the UK (approximately 24 million) provide more space for nature than all National Nature Reserves in the country put together. By making your garden more wildlife friendly, you can contribute to the bigger picture of nature recovery, giving plants and animals an opportunity to thrive and connect with larger areas of habitat through wildlife corridors.

There is a lot of information on the **Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group** 'Take Action' page showing what you can do in own your home and garden to support nature: [Take Action – Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group](#)

The Notts Wildlife Trust website also has suggestions for **wildlife friendly gardening**: [Wildlife gardening | The Wildlife Trusts](#)

Advocacy for nature recovery is just as important as taking physical action. Sharing messages with friends, family and colleagues about nature recovery and its importance in our everyday lives will help to get more people engaged with protecting, restoring and creating essential spaces for nature.

You can also support local groups and environmental organisations through financial contributions which will help

fund nature recovery activities across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham.

2. Why volunteering is important for nature recovery

Volunteers play a vital role in nature recovery across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham, bringing passion, local knowledge, and hands-on support to conservation efforts.

From planting trees and restoring habitats to monitoring wildlife and maintaining green spaces for people to enjoy, their contributions help reverse biodiversity loss and build resilient spaces for nature. Their dedication not only enhances the county's natural beauty but also fosters stronger community connections and a shared sense of stewardship for the environment.

Without volunteers, many of Nottinghamshire's most cherished landscapes and species would struggle to thrive. If you are able to, volunteering with

a local group is a great way to contribute to nature recovery and help deliver the Priorities in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

3. How to use the LNRS

Individuals, local groups and communities can use the LNRS to find out which community efforts are in place that will have the most impact, and where.

Use the [Local Habitat Map](#) to view the **designated Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIBs)** within your local area. Consider contributing to conservation efforts by exploring available volunteer opportunities to help protect and enhance these important habitats.

Read the **Priorities and Potential Measures** identified by the LNRS in section 5 of the [Statement of Biodiversity Priorities](#), and consider how can you apply them on your land and gardens.

The Priorities and Potential Measures for **'Urban' habitats** on page 70 and 71, include general and specific actions that can be taken in urban areas to deliver nature recovery action.

Community conservation groups can use the LNRS to ensure their initiatives are strategically aligned with local biodiversity priorities in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham. By referencing the **Mapped Measures** on the [Local Habitat Map](#), local groups can identify where their efforts, such as habitat restoration or species monitoring, will have the greatest impact for nature recovery.

This not only enhances the effectiveness of local conservation activities but may also strengthen applications for government funding for nature programmes by clearly demonstrating how the group's efforts contribute to the delivery of strategic nature recovery objectives.

4. Mapping considerations

The strategic nature of the LNRS mapping means that mapping has been developed without detailed site-based surveys or assessments having been carried out on each proposed area for nature recovery.

Therefore, before embarking on a habitat creation or enhancement project in an area that is mapped in the LNRS, it is essential that the desirability and feasibility of the project is assessed (including by obtaining relevant expert advice) and that potential constraints (e.g. in relation to ecology and the historic environment) are considered.

See sections 6.3 and 6.4 of the ['Statement of Biodiversity Priorities'](#) for further guidance on how to interpret the Potential Measures shown on the Local Habitat Map, with particular attention to feasibility and other constraints.

5. Volunteering Resources

Volunteering on Nottinghamshire County Council sites

Please see the Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) website page on Countryside Volunteering Opportunities - [Countryside volunteering opportunities | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

There are regular conservation task days and other opportunities at NCC-owned country parks/nature reserves including **Bestwood Country Park** and **Cotgrave County Park**. Residents can complete an [enquiry form](#) to register their interest in volunteering.

Sherwood Forest National Nature Reserve is owned by NCC but managed by the **RSPB**. Find out more about volunteering with Sherwood Forest on the RSPB volunteering page: [Volunteer with us - Sherwood Forest](#).

Volunteering in General / all habitats

Residents can also join a local 'Friends of' group or volunteer with partner organisations like Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and National Trust.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

The Wildlife Trust manages a number of local wildlife sites and nature reserves across the county: [Volunteer with us | Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust](#)

National Trust

There are often opportunities to volunteer in the gardens and parkland at Clumber Park: [Volunteer at Clumber Park | Nottinghamshire | National Trust](#)

Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group

More opportunities to take action for nature are listed on the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group website: [Take](#)

[Action – Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group](#)

Friends of groups

Notts BAG also runs regular volunteer activities in relation to habitat management for Grizzled Skipper butterflies and invasive species control. Please look at the Events tab for information on upcoming opportunities: <https://nottsbag.org.uk/events/>

Grizzled Skipper

There is a link through to details of Friends Of/conservation groups operating in each district area, who may manage a local wildlife site, and these groups can be contacted directly: [Local Authorities and Community Groups – Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group](#)

Volunteering for Woodlands

Forestry England

Some woodland sites, including at Sherwood Pines and around Ollerton, are managed by Forestry England:

- [Volunteering at Sherwood Pines | Forestry England](#)
- [Volunteering at Nottinghamshire Community Woodlands | Forestry England](#)

Sherwood Forest Trust

Sherwood Forest Trust is a charity focussed on nature and conservation of the Sherwood Forest area. Project include restoring Sherwood's threatened heathland, tree-planting and woodland creation, archaeology and history of the Forest. Visit: [Volunteer with us! - The Sherwood Forest Trust Charity](#)

Volunteering for Rivers and Wetlands

Canal and River Trust

The Canal and River Trust looks after canals and rivers across Nottinghamshire and volunteers can help repair canals, rivers, towpaths and the surrounding environment. Visit: [Volunteer with us | Canal & River Trust](#)

Trent Rivers Trust

The Trent Rivers Trust encourages volunteering and citizen science to support positive action for rivers. Volunteers can help at events or record the health status and species of their local river. Visit: [Help Your Local River - Trent Rivers Trust](#)

Citizen Science

Residents can also get involved with a range of **citizen science** projects, such as the Great Garden Bird Watch, the River Watch etc.