



Lancashire,
Manchester &
N Merseyside

my wild garden

YOUR GARDEN, YOUR CITY, YOUR WILDLIFE



www.lancswt.org.uk

Cover Image by Tom Marshall.

my wild city

RECONNECTING PEOPLE & WILDLIFE WITHIN THEIR GARDENS

My Wild City

is a new campaign run by The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside, that aims to reconnect people with their gardens and the wildlife living within them.

To do this we must link up our green spaces and gardens to save local wildlife.

We want to help make Manchester a greener, wilder place to be.

The My Wild City scheme is a national initiative from The Wildlife Trusts, which is already running very successfully in several cities including Bristol, Cardiff, London and Leeds.

We want to add Manchester to the list of Wild Cities, but we need your help.

HOW LINKING UP OUR GARDENS CAN MAKE A CHANGE...

49%
of Manchester's land cover is made up of green and blue (water) spaces



Green space on your doorstep

Living in an industrial city can sometimes make you feel as if you are somehow disconnected from nature.

However, research we helped to conduct in 2016-18 led by Manchester Metropolitan University called 'My Back Yard', found that 49% of Manchester's land cover is made up of green and blue (water) spaces.

Collectively, gardens make up 20% of this green space across Manchester – so the power is in all of our hands to get stuck in and make a difference.

If we have more people choosing My Wild Gardens, planting wildflowers over cementing their grounds, and laying hedges instead of installing fences; not only will we be better protected against the impacts of climate change, we will also be creating better, bigger and more joined up ecological networks for all our wildlife to thrive, all the way from *Higher Blackley* to *Woodhouse Park*.



5 species

YOU CAN PLEDGE TO PROTECT

IF EVERYONE DOES ONE THING FOR WILDLIFE, TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE.



Lancashire, Manchester & N Merseyside

We are a membership charity and we couldn't make a difference without your support. We manage and support many key conservation projects across the North West.

Join our family at lancswt.org.uk/membership



1



PIPISTRELLE BAT

Pipistrelles like cavity walls and spaces under the eaves of houses, so try not to block these off.

2



HOUSE SPARROW

Sparrows need a lot of insects, so try and attract them by leaving wild areas or planting caterpillar friendly trees, such as oak, apple, birch and willow

3



HEDGEHOG

Hedgehogs like meat-based petfood (including cat biscuits), raisins, cooked potatoes and chopped fruit. Try setting up a feeding station for them.

4



BUMBLEBEE

A full stomach of nectar will give a bee 40 minutes of flying time. Planting flowers such as lavender, crocuses, cornflower and honeysuckle can give them a boost.

5

SONG THRUSH

Providing bird food and water over the winter season will help their young survive.

TIP: DRIED MEALWORMS ARE THEIR FAVOURITE




Images by
Martin Harvey, Gillian Day,
Terry Whittaker/2020VISION,
Mark Hamblin/2020VISION and
Chris Gomersall/2020VISION.

Wildlife must be able to move around the landscape to forage, mate and migrate. Climate change and rising temperatures means creatures are extending their territories north, but pushing them to the limits in the south. While this sounds good to Northerners, it often means fragmented habitat and fewer wildlife corridors - this puts species at risk.

WHICH SPECIES WILL YOU PLEDGE TO HELP PROTECT TODAY?

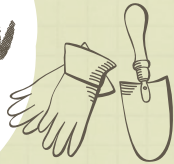


my wild garden

WHAT TYPE OF GARDEN DO YOU HAVE?

60%+ GREEN

urban OASIS



SHADED GARDEN?

OR

A LOT OF LIGHT?

20%+ GREEN

wild AT HEART



CEMENTED PATIO OR DRIVEWAY?

OR

DRIVEWAY WITH PERMEABLE SURFACE (SUCH AS RESIN)

LESS THAN 10% GREEN

potted CHAMPIONS



GOT ANY SPARE PLANT POTS?

OR

LIVE IN A FLAT/NO GREEN SPACE?



tips & hints FOR A WILDER GARDEN

FIND MORE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO CREATE A WILD GARDEN AT...
LANCSWT.ORG.UK/MYWILDCITY

Leave a patch of wild in your garden. Let nettles, thistles, holly and ivy grow for butterflies to lay their eggs on.

Why not plant some wildflower seeds, or create a mini pond to give the birds a drink during hot weather?



Replacing hard surfaces with green space, allows water to seep into the ground and reduce flooding. But if you can't change your driveway or patio, try planting some potted herbs.

Already reducing water runoff? What about making your own compost? Local councils usually offer discounts on bins, but with a few pallets, a hammer and nails you can do it in an afternoon. Just make a lid and build it on top of soil.



Why don't you make your own wormery out of plastic boxes, pop your worms in, food scraps and a bit of cardboard now and again. Drain off the 'worm wee'. Superfood for your potted plants. Voila!

Talk to your neighbours to organise a clean-up or go out to identify wildlife. Make sure you record your sightings and submit them to Greater Manchester Local Records Centre at gmwildlife.org.uk

greater manchester
Record
Centre



Images by Paul Harris/2020VISION

my wild garden

CHAMPION

THE HOUSE SPARROW
PASSER DOMESTICUS

CONSERVATION STATUS:
UK RED LISTED SPECIES

Understanding nature is a lot easier when you realise that it's actually happening outside your window. Your garden is part of a vitally important network, which creates habitats and links across Manchester, the North West and United Kingdom.

So, when you notice something is missing from your bird table then it might just mean that particular species is in peril.

The House Sparrow is a glaring example of this. It is thought there are now 10 million fewer house sparrows in the UK than there were 25 years ago, meaning local populations are definitely affected.



Although there are three species of Sparrow in the UK; the **House, Hedge** and **Tree Sparrow**, the **House Sparrow** is the most likely of the three to be seen in your garden. It can be identified by its black bib and grey cap in males, and a thick bill and streaky brown colouring in females.

There are two main reasons for the sparrows' decline including a lack of insects and nesting sites. Meadows are being built on and gardens over-tided. So attracting insects to your garden by leaving areas wild will not only encourage sparrows but bats, birds, hedgehogs and frogs.

House Sparrows typically nest in the eaves of houses, but with the removal of old-style eaves in modern housing, House Sparrows are really struggling. Being colonial nesters, putting up a couple of nest boxes designed specifically for them can really support them through the breeding season. Pop the boxes 2m above the ground and on the north to east sides of your houses to avoid extreme weather.

The more you make your garden or local open space wildlife-friendly, the more likely you will get a wide variety of wildlife coming along to spend time with you.

And, while some of these species will seem exotic and brightly coloured, remember one beautiful, noisy, cheeky character will continue to return...the wonderful House Sparrow.



Vine House Farm is an award-winning wildlife friendly farm which **which donates up to 5% of the value of every sales order to the Wildlife Trusts**

You can order bird food and nest boxes easily at VINEHOUSEFARM.CO.UK

Image by Ben Hall/2020VISION



HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For the Lancashire Wildlife Trust to continue our work we need to have a dependable source of income so we can plan more effectively for the future and make sure we are spending your donations where wildlife needs it the most.

The threat to our wildlife is real, and unless we act now the wildlife and wild places we all love will become a thing of the past.

By supporting our charity as a member, you will be directly helping to KEEP OUR REGION WILD! Your support will make a difference on your own doorstep, and for generations to come.

WE HAVE A MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE TO SUIT EVERYONE, SUCH AS INDIVIDUAL, JOINT OR FAMILY

JOIN ONLINE
LANCSWT.ORG.UK

JOIN BY PHONE
01772 324129

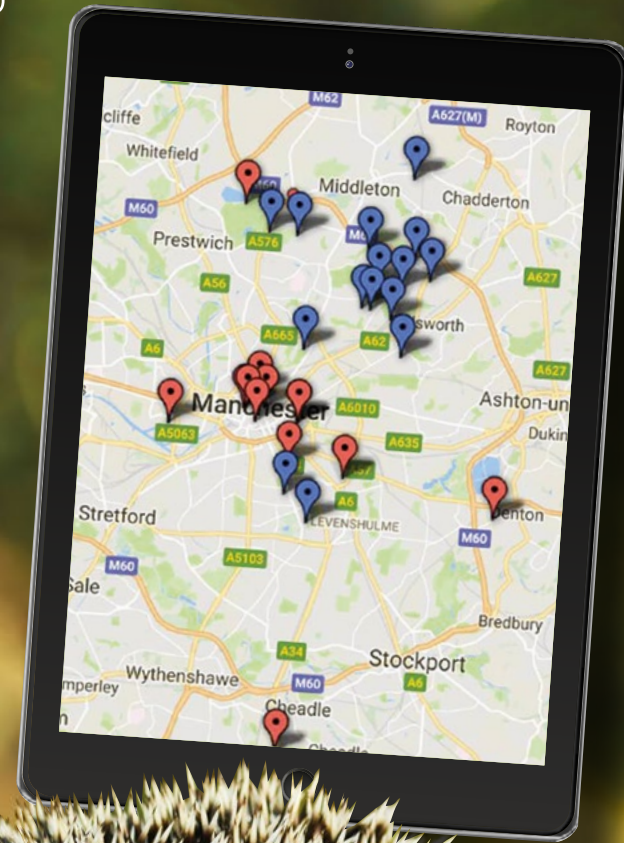


WE RUN MORE THAN 100 CONSERVATION PROJECTS, USING OUR LOCAL KNOWLEDGE & EXPERTISE

HOW CAN YOU GET MORE INVOLVED IN MY WILD GARDEN?

We want to hear all about the changes you are making in your garden. **Simply submit them via the interactive map on our website under My Wild Champion.** Show off what you're doing and see the bigger community you're part of.

Please submit your actions online lancswt.org.uk/mywildcity or use the hashtag **#MyWildMCR** when you tweet, share or post your images on social media!



my wild garden

Images by Penny Dixie and Paul Harris/2020VISION and Alan Wright.



My Wild City's aim is to achieve more My Wild Gardens, My Wild Offices, My Wild Schools and My Wild Champions.

We want to empower YOU with the knowledge and ability to be able to make a change in YOUR area.

We'll be offering FREE gardening workshops at The Hive in Bolton, with an aim to work together to improve the habitat quality of 15,000 gardens across Manchester by 2025.

VISIT LANCSWT.ORG.UK/MYWILDCITY FOR MORE DETAILS



Lancashire,
Manchester &
N Merseyside

**The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire,
Manchester and North Merseyside**

The Barn, Berkeley Drive, Bamber Bridge,
Preston, Lancashire, PR5 6BY.

Tel: 01772 324129 Registered charity no. 229325

Image by Gillian Day.



 Lancashire Wildlife Trust

 @lancswildlife

 @lancshirerwildlifetrust

www.lancswt.org.uk