

Local wildlife

Be inspired



neighbourhoods **green**

IMPROVING THE GREEN SPACES FOR SOCIAL HOUSING



Bumblebee



Stag beetle



Emperor dragonfly

Making a few small adjustments to your area to encourage more wildlife can be a very rewarding experience. It doesn't need to cost much or take much effort. Not only will you be improving your area but also enriching your life and your family's.

Careful though, it can be addictive. Don't say we didn't warn you.

Use of insecticides and other chemicals, over-managed green and open spaces, not to mention climate change, has all seriously affected the wildlife populations of Britain. It's about time we fought back and made our spaces animal, insect and bird friendly again.

Ok, so we don't all want to be twitchers (that's bird watchers to you and me) but attracting wildlife can be a very rewarding and beneficial experience. Making bird feeders, setting-up a small pond, cultivating a green space; all of these can be hugely exciting and educational experiences for children. Did you know that a bee has to visit 2 million flowers to produce one jar of honey? Or that the pipistrelle bat eats 3,500 insects a night?

Wildlife also makes any space more attractive and interesting. Being outside on a summers evening as the sun is setting in the sky and the birds are singing will put a smile on the sternest of faces. And everyone loves butterflies; so colourful and graceful.

The fact is we all have our personal favourites. Some people think grey squirrels are pests, others love them. However you feel about it wildlife adds another dimension to an area. Once you've attracted new birds, mammals and insects to your area they will also start to repay you by eating unwelcome pests. By tipping the balance back in nature's favour we can create more self-sustaining green and open spaces that need less looking after. They'll also become more interesting with a greater breadth and depth of plant and animal life.

You can start to make a difference today and who knows, a few years from now you might be standing on the reed beds in Norfolk, up to your knees in mud, twitching next to Bill Oddie. Ok, maybe not, but you might know a lot more about England's birds, mammals and insects and be enjoying all the great benefits that go with that.

Inspired? Read our 'Guide to attracting wildlife' to find out more about how you can start tipping the balance back toward nature.

www.neighbourhoodsgreen.org.uk

Natural Estates is a partnership project of Neighbourhoods Green: Broomlegh Housing Association, Circle 33 (with London & Quadrant), CityWest Homes, Gallons Housing Association, Hackney Homes, Homes for Harlingey, Peabody, Places for People, and Southern Foundation, with Groundwork London, London Wildlife Trust and Natural England