

Creating Wildflower Meadows Smestow Valley and Reedswood Park

Work started this summer at Smestow Valley to create a wildflower meadow within the Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve.

Similar work has also begun at Reedswood Park. The first stage of creating a wildflower meadow is to strew freshly cut green hay across the land. This contains wildflower seed which will germinate in the spring helping to establish a habitat that a wide range of wild plants and insect life will make their home.

The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country spent four days with over 20 volunteers strewing green hay this summer from huge bales that came from a meadow in Birmingham. The new meadow should burst into life in the Spring.

Canal Dredging Creates New Home for Wildlife

In the 1800s the motorways of England were the canals, the high speed transport network of the industrial revolution.

Today the disused Anson Branch (Walsall) and Bradley Arm (Bilston) canals are peaceful backwaters that are being enhanced by Walsall Council and The Canal and River Trust.

Recent dredging is creating an improved environment for wildlife by helping water to flow and not stagnate. It will also help provide more homes for animals like otters and water voles.

Improvement to associated towpaths means more people can enjoy watching wildlife take up residence here.

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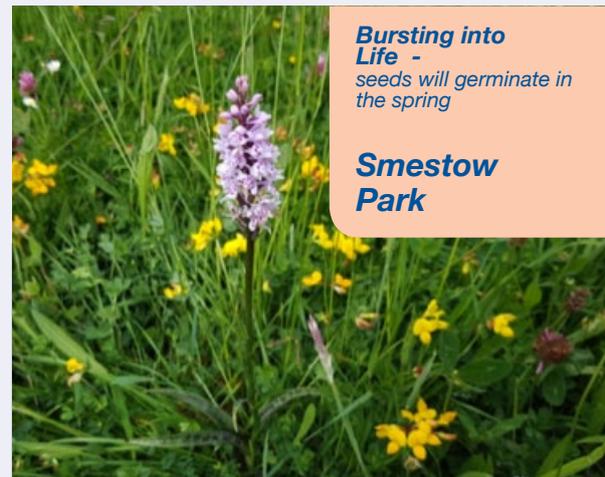
Birmingham & BC Bat Group - spot over 150 Bats

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Strewing Green Hay - volunteers prepare the land for seeding

Smestow Park



Bursting into Life - seeds will germinate in the spring

Smestow Park



Dredging improves habitat

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Wolverhampton Environment Centre Work Gets Underway

Over 90% of the former Wolverhampton Environment Centre is to become part of the Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve.

Work has already started to improve access to the site including ramps to help people explore areas off the main old railway walk.

The new pathways herald conservation work that will start in November to transform and open up 5.5 hectares of land that can be enjoyed by the public.

The enhancements are set to extend the area included as part of the Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve.



Reedswood Glades May Attract Golden Hoverfly

Woodland in Reedswood Park is being managed to create glades. These open areas within the trees create homes for wild plants that in turn attract insects and birds.

The woodland is full of birch trees, but the Black Country Blue Network (BCBN) project is supporting the re-introduction of trees that used to be there including Oak, Ash and Elm.

The Golden Hoverfly is a rare species once prolific in woodlands. Beech and Ash trees are their favourite homes, so the new planting may see them return. The Birch that has been cut down to create room for the glades and new trees is being used to make log piles in the woods. These will rot down providing homes for fungi and small insects that will attract birds and mammals to the woods in search of food.



Birmingham & BC Wildlife Trust - grow local flora in their Eco-Park Reserve

[Read the Full Story](#)



Creating Reedswood Glades - to attract wildlife

Spotted one of these?



We're keen to hear all about your wildlife spotting

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GET IN TOUCH

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