

Selection of biodiversity enhancement recommendations and how they relate to our role as a healthcare provider

Looking after and enhancing biodiversity is fundamental for human health and wellbeing. One way to think of this is in terms of ecosystem services, for example we rely on insects as pollinators for the food we eat and trees provide shade. The list is extensive, for more information visit [NatureScots](#) website. Healthy ecosystems are synonymous with human health.

Biodiverse greenspaces can also enhance healthcare service provision for example creating opportunities for nature connection & relaxation, physio & cardiac rehab, can support staff, visitor and patient health & wellbeing and contribute to preventative healthcare approach for our wider communities.

Create a relaxed mowing regime

This will create a more diverse and pollen nectar resource for wildlife. A mixture of heights is good.

[Grassland Management Guidance](#)



Photo credit ERZ Landscape Architect

grasslands

flowerbeds



Use mostly native species in flower beds

This will provide foraging resource for pollinators such as heather, lavender, crocus, snowdrop, viper's bugloss.

Enhance existing or create new hedgerow habitat

Allow hedgerows to grow taller and wider. Use mix of at least five native species, e.g. blackthorn (pictured), hawthorn, hazel and field maple.

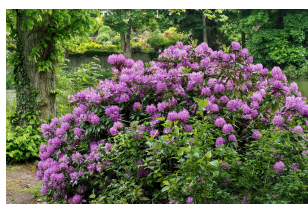


hedgerows

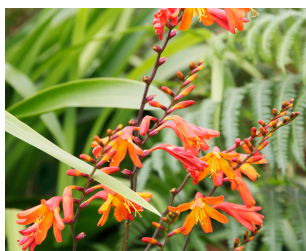
Plant native scrub, replace non-natives and remove invasive species



Species like dogrose & willow offer diversity for local fauna.



Rhododendron is a non-native invasive species that should be removed.



Plants like cotoneaster, montbretia and laural are not valuable to wildlife.

Manage trees and woodland for wildlife

- Protect and increase mature trees.
- Leave dead/felled wood in woodland habitats.
- Plant native species to reduce open space and increase connectivity.



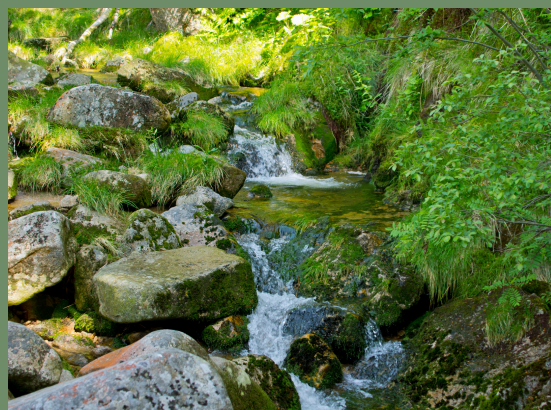
Install bird, bat and bug boxes on larger trees and buildings in appropriate locations.

Use permeable surfaces when replacing paving

Install water-butts to collect water

Remove invasive non-native species and enhance watercourse and wet areas.

Remove invasive, non-native species, e.g. cherry laurel. Plant native water tolerant trees e.g. birch and alder. Wet meadow could be established on watercourses and wet areas.



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