

Environmental Education and Improvement Call for Projects

Project Name	Organisation	Funding Requested	Total Score (Max 50 points)
Community Wildflower Meadow and Water Vole Rescue Project	Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park (HLCP)	£2,520	42
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2019 to March 2020 • The project will deliver a 5 Year Project to the meadow east of Stephenson Lake, which forms part of HLCP's Local Wildlife Site (LWS), to restore its botanical and ecological interest • The public will be involved through education and active participation, taking responsibility for their local area and its wildlife • A programme of seasonal works has been drawn up • HLCP Young Park Rangers Group, local schools and community will be encouraged to take part in practical and educational • The improved management will encourage wildflower regeneration, providing improved habitat for insects and birds • All proposed works are in line with the LWS Management Plan for this site and have the full backing of SCC's Ecology Team • We will work with SCC Ecology Team, Durham Wildlife Trust, Springboard, Corporate Groups, Hetton Lyons Angling Club, Hetton Local and Natural History Group, local schools and community to deliver this project • We will engage the SCC approved contractor who has the specialist qualifications and machinery to carry out the sensitive works • The habitat improvements will have an impact on the surrounding areas as HLCP is central to the wildlife corridor through which any increased wildlife will permeate • Hopefully by retaining a healthy thriving water vole population we can assist the spread through the area • We will advertise the green gym and nature sessions on social media, park notice boards, VCS, schools, Gentoo and local groups • Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and safeguarding arrangements are in place and we have two trained First Aiders <p>RECOMMENDATION: Approve. The project will deliver a range of improvements. Working in partnership with Sunderland City Council. Volunteers and young park rangers will take part in practical and educational activities</p>			
Project Name	Organisation	Funding Requested	Total Score (Max 50 points)
Food for All - Barn and Composting Toilet	Hetton New Dawn	£3,000	39
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 2019 to April 2020 • New Dawn's allotment will turn a neglected space of approximately 100 square metres into a useful, environmentally friendly area. • It will produce home grown fruit, vegetables and herbs and will attract and encourage bio-diversity providing a suitable habitat for wildlife such as insects, birds and small animals. • Recycling is an important aspect of this project both in building materials, containers for beds and planting. • Facilities that are a priority are a composting toilet and a barn with a living roof, which will be used as a community space for shelter and as a learning space • Heating, hot water and lighting for both these facilities will be generated through solar panels on the roof. The barn roof will improve water storage, encourage pollinating insects 			

and provide habitat for insects and other wildlife.

Bringing people together across age ranges to connect with nature and have a sense of common purpose is also a priority because being out of the house and engaged in positive social interaction has physical and mental health benefits for those who attend

- Time spent physically active in the fresh air helps to keep users fit and healthy while the therapeutic benefits of nature have been proven to improve mental health, promoting feelings of calm and control as well as hope for the future
- We will train and manage a team volunteers to assist service users in learning and therapeutic gardening sessions
- Opportunities will be offered to people who live in local residential settings, those we support in their own homes and local schools.

After launch in spring 2019, within the first six months 50 residents and 6 volunteers will have benefited

- We will employ an experienced sessional worker, who will oversee the project and coordinate regular feedback to ensure the project is fully utilised and is enhancing the quality of life for people across the community
- Once operational the project will be low cost and sustainable for future generations
- In partnership with ELCAP's community allotment, a variety of fruit/vegetables/plants/flowers will be grown to support the Foodbank and Welcome Cafes
- We will work with Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park in encouraging volunteers to support more local activities
- Local businesses, schools and care homes will be engaged, to encourage development of skills and knowledge about the environment and our responsibility to improve the area
- Voluntary support has been offered by a number of community groups including Scouts and business groups
- Funding will contribute to the construction of a barn and composting toilet

RECOMMENDATION: Approve. The project provides opportunities for all ages, including older and socially isolated. Will provide a safe and accessible environment to include a diverse range of residents. Will continue the improvement of a derelict site.

Project Name	Organisation	Funding Requested	Total Score (Max 50 points)
ELCAP's Wildlife Garden	ELCAP	£2,215	37
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2019 to December 2019 • ELCAP has developed a Community Garden and Allotment • We seek to further develop the perimeter edges of the ELCAP Garden into a Wildlife Garden • Under the supervision of our soon to be appointed Gardening Coordinator working alongside our Events Coordinator we aim to provide the opportunity for local residents including school children to connect with the natural world • The Wildlife Garden Project will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Teach participants how all life is dependent on its environment & other species, including people ➤ Connect or reconnect participants with nature in an increasingly electronic & urbanised world ➤ Show how a difference can be made in even a small space like ELCAP's garden ➤ Promote working together to achieve a measurable goal, a wildlife garden showing positive results even after a short time. ➤ Instil a nurturing attitude • This will be achieved through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Creating wildlife stacks to enable wildlife to live, feed and hibernate. 			

- Provision of bird boxes and bat boxes
 - The garden's borders being filled with flowering plants and shrubs so as to give nectar rich food to butterflies and bees, as well as seeds, berries and cover for birds and small mammals.
 - Maintaining the hedges and trees so as to offer roosting and nesting sites for birds and mammals.
 - Planting climbers against walls to provide brilliant shelter as well as roosting and breeding sites for birds.
 - Keeping areas of long grass in order to give all sorts of wildlife a place to hide and breed
- Outcomes will be gained from visitor numbers and regular feedback from participants and partners.
 - We will further promote the wider opportunity of working in both the Community Garden and the Wildlife garden to local schools, groups and VCS partners
 - Match funding has been secured for the purchase of plants and seeds, and to employ a Gardening Coordinator for 8 hours a week (this application will increase their working hours by an additional 5 hours a week, and also enable the purchase of bird and bat boxes)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve. The project provides educational and physical opportunities. Work with schools and partners/community.

Project Name	Organisation	Funding Requested	Total Score (Max 50 points)
Community BioBlitz	Groundwork North East	£2,000	37

- April 2019 to August 2019
- We want to encourage more people out into their local park to experience nature and explore the habitats around them
- This project will educate the community with new skills in surveying and identification so they can discover for themselves what is living in their local area
- We will hold 5 training workshops led by local experts on plants, trees, birds, mammals and insects
- These will be followed up with a BioBlitz event at Elba Park. A BioBlitz records all the species living in a certain area in a 24hour period
- It provides baseline data that is used to identify gaps and help to plan the focus of future land management to increase biodiversity
- The results of our BioBlitz will be fed into local networks such as ERIC (Environmental Records Information Centre) and will inform this year's environmental improvements at the park.
- This project will encourage people to spend more time outdoors in their local greenspaces and experience all the health and well-being benefits that accompany this. It will also make people aware of the different animals and plants they share the park with and the impact negative behaviours can have
- This will encourage local people to take more pride in their neighbourhoods and recognise their collective responsibility to maintain them
- The people who attend the training workshops will be able to practice their new skills in their local patch and can participate in many other citizen science projects
- We will encourage all ages to attend the training and BioBlitz event and bring different generations together to share and learn new skills
- Those who attend this training will be able to pass their knowledge on to others so wildlife can continue to be monitored for years to come
- We already have excellent links with partners in the community and will use these relationships to successfully deliver our project
- Promote and advertise training workshops and BioBlitz event via VCS Network

- We will also use local experts to deliver the identification and survey skills education sessions, using links with ERIC (Environmental Records Information Centre), NERAG (North East Reptile and Amphibian Group), Durham Bird Club, Durham Bat Group, and Durham Wildlife Trust.
- We will work with the Friends of Elba Park to help deliver our aims
- There is scope to replicate this project in the other Coalfields parks and we can support this through our My Space Our Place project, working with the other Friends Groups.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve. The project will encourage people to take part in outdoor activity whilst contributing to a survey of habitat etc... Working with Friends group

Project Name	Organisation	Funding Requested	Total Score (Max 50 points)
Greener Coalfield Project	Durham Wildlife Trust	£3,000	36

- April to November 2019
- The Greener Coalfield Project will engage and empower local communities to improve their local green spaces and encourage them to enjoy spending more time in their local outdoor environment.
- Initially Durham Wildlife Trust (DWT) will use local networks, such as schools, community groups, individuals, businesses and local authority representatives, to carry out brief surveys gaining a greater understanding about the local issues surrounding parks and green spaces. This will be a call to action and determine a way forward for the project.
- Following the greenspace surveys DWT will compile a program of activities to build a sense of ownership and pride within local communities and strengthen local partnerships.
- **Clean- Up Activities**
DWT will lead practical tasks to tidy up, cut back vegetation and remove litter. Alongside this, there will be an awareness raising campaign about litter. The campaign will be delivered with posters and flyers, social media posts and articles in newsletters.
- **Green-Up Activities**
The Green-Up Activities will be designed to empower local people to improve the biodiversity and improve the visual appearance of neglected areas. Specific activities will be informed from site surveys and developed with DWT's expertise in nature conservation and land management. Activities will include opening areas of woodland plantation, planting native nectar-rich bulbs, managing shrubs and building bird boxes. Participants will be given information about how to replicate habitat improvements in their own gardens and school grounds to create wildlife-friendly network across the area.
- **Train-Up Activities**
The DWT Engagement Officer will run training to give people the skills and confidence to do small tasks on the greenspaces to maintain their visual appearance; help to encourage more wildlife and greater use by the rest of the community.
- DWT has a good relationship with local schools and community groups such as the Friends of Herrington Country Park and Hetton Lyons Country Park, as well as having access to a wide network of organisations, groups and individuals through the Sunderland Green Spaces Forum, and will invite them to be involved and participate with the project. Sunderland City Council will be a key partner and will be consulted on the planning and delivery of the project, particularly if working on council owned land. Local events will be coordinated with local community groups to ensure local support and commitment.
- Will work with Groundwork to ensure the project complements My Space, Our Place

RECOMMENDATION: Approve. The project involves the whole Coalfield area. Clean ups and physical works will be complemented by conservation and educational opportunities. Working in partnership with current projects.