

Millfields Biodiversity Enhancements 03/03/11

Scope: Kate Mitchell (KM) met with representatives from the MUG committee (Tim, Emma, Michael) to discuss the Millfields biodiversity proposals. The proposals have been based on the 'Millfields Recreation Ground Management Plan 2010-15', commissioned from the London Wildlife Trust. These proposals have been revised following a site visit in November 2010 and discussions with Hackney Council parks officers.

Main issues:

- Those present went through the list of proposals and assessed suitability for the site.
- For the initial spring/summer phase, priority will be given to establishment of a meadow area and creation of stag beetle loggeries.
- MUG will take ownership of the project and be the key partners in delivery.
- External partners will be brought in for specialist elements i.e. surveys, elements requiring expertise.
- Some issues added/amended in as it was felt they had been missed in the LWT plan, including orchard management, amended dates etc.

Financial management:

- KM will hold responsibility for the budget for the project.
- The original budget for the Ecohance project was £50,000.
- Of this £8066.13 was spent commissioning 4 site surveys and management plans from the London Wildlife Trust.
- Remaining budget is £41,933.87. It should be noted that a proportion of this money should be spent on Daubeney Fields (c.£10k), leaving approximately £30k for Millfields Park.
- Funds will be used for:
 - o Tools
 - o Capital items, including plants
 - o Specialist surveys
 - o External support

Delivery:

- MUG keen to deliver the majority of actions within the project.
- Series of regular, open volunteer days to be established.
- Potential to involve specific groups in 'closed' sessions e.g. underrepresented groups such as young people.
- Parks will provide overall coordination.

Health and safety issues:

- Need to clarify issues of first aid, risk assessments etc
- No lone working to avoid need for CRB (KM to double check)

Actions:

- KM to map areas of grassland management (by 11.04.11)
- KM to discuss potential National Grid funding and transport-led path project with Paul/Bruce and ensure projects tie in
- KM to circulate biodiversity management guidance notes and bring copies to open meeting
- KM to clarify issues regarding health and safety for activities run by user groups
- KM to discuss potential for leaf composters at the site with Paul/Bruce
- MUG to investigate suitable locations to store tools

Next steps:

Proposals to be presented to an open meeting of the Millfields User Group on 11 April 2011.

Millfields Biodiversity Enhancements – Activity List March 2011

Cpt	Recommendation	How completed	Recommended timing
1	Plant native wildflower bulbs	Parks to source bulbs. Volunteer activity to plant.	Oct-Dec
	Selective coppicing	Volunteer activity.	Oct-Feb
2	Manage wet area by annual cutting and raking.	Parks to amend mowing regimes. Scope for volunteer involvement in raking/scything.	Cut Sept-Oct
	Plant wetland wildflower plugs in wet area	Parks to source plugs. Volunteer activity to plant.	Feb-May
	Cut grass areas twice a year to 10-15cm and rake arisings. Cut half of the area each year.	Parks to amend mowing regimes. Scope for volunteer involvement in raking/scything.	First cut late Feb-March 2 nd cut Oct-Dec
3	Plant native wildflower bulbs	Parks to source bulbs. Volunteer activity to plant.	Oct-Dec
4	Relax mowing regime between tree clumps and along road boundary to leave long grass. Mow paths through the areas.	Parks to amend mowing regimes. Scope for volunteer involvement in raking/scything.	Cut Sept-Oct
	Meadow creation.	Scope for volunteer involvement in seeding	March-May
5	n/a		
6	n/a		
7	n/a		
8	Relax mowing regime to create wildflower meadow over whole cpt. Path to be mown through area.	Parks to amend mowing regimes. Scope for volunteer involvement in raking/scything.	Cut Sept-Oct
9	Create and maintain stag beetle loggeries	Parks/Tree gang to provide logs. Volunteer activity to build loggeries.	Any
	Coppice woodland boundary to create graded woodland grassland transition. Pile brash in woodland.	Volunteer activity.	Oct-Feb
	Tidy up chicken wire fence and concrete posts	Volunteer activity	Oct-Feb
	Create gap/path to canal bank through woodland, create focal area.	Volunteer activity.	Oct-Feb
	Further screen boundary to power station with native trees/shrubs.	Parks to provide trees/shrubs. Volunteer planting activity.	Oct-Feb
	Orchard management	Volunteer activity.	Oct-Feb
All	Make and erect bird and bat boxes	Parks to source materials. Potential volunteer activity to make boxes. Parks to erect.	Sept-March (not in breeding season)

NB Priorities for spring/summer 2011 highlighted in grey and **bold**.