

What can we do to increase biodiversity in our parks and greenspaces? Summary of panel discussion.

Chair: Quentin Given (Chair) - [Friends of The Paddock](#)

Panellists:

Annabel Foskett - Nature Conservation Officer, Haringey Council

Caroline Jepson - [Friends of Lordship Recreation Ground](#) and [Haringey Water Squad](#)

Pamela Shor and Paulette Henry – [Black Rootz](#)

[Russell Miller](#) - Arboricultural and ecological consultant

- Create dead wood piles by leaving any trees that need to be cut for safety reasons on site in a corner to rot. These provide a habitat for beetles and fungi and hedgehogs, grass snakes and toads can hide or stay over winter in the cavities underneath
- Create orchards and preserve old trees through a sensible risk management strategy
- Fence off some spaces to keep out people and dogs. Ensure they have holes that enable hedgehogs and frogs to pass through
- No mowing of some areas – this leads to the growth of plants such as ragwort and yarrow which in turn attracts insects and beetles and contributes to the food chain for birds, voles and hedgehogs. It also leads to the growth of new trees without having to plant them
- Create ponds – these will attract dragonflies and possibly toads too
- Incorporate bird feeders
- Support intergenerational projects and provide an opportunity for knowledge and skills to be imparted from one generation to the next; “Each One, Teach One”. Celebrate pioneers and develop the custodians of the future
- Introduce edible plants which provide an opportunity to engage communities in supporting wildlife and enhancing the educational experience e.g. tasting nettle tea and understanding how good nettles are for pollinators
- Show people around including through nature and tree walks and open days, and provide tangible opportunities for people to touch, feel and be a part of nature
- Create diverse volunteer opportunities that engage a range of volunteers, representative of the local community
- Run and / or support the running of different sized events to bring people into the parks and encourage different groups to work together
- Carry out Citizen Science projects and take part in UK surveys such as the Big Butterfly Count

- Grow food and in our allotments, encourage tropical plants that can now survive here, as way to connect with people e.g. with Caribbean heritage.



Paulette Henry and Pamela Shor from Black Rootz with Quentin Given from Friends of The Paddock.