



HEDGEHOGS

Hedgehog numbers have fallen from 30 to just 1 million now. It's estimated that a third of hedgehogs have been lost because of city areas and urban life.

They are now at risk and need your help.

- ✓ Leave hedges, shrubs and areas of long grass in your garden for shelter and hibernation
- ✓ Make holes the size of adult hand in your fence – hedgehogs need to roam widely to find food and a mate. Join forces with your neighbours and create a hedgehog highway
- ✓ Encourage more bugs into your garden as a food source. Herbs such as mint, dill and fennel attract beetles. Build a log or leaf pile to draw in earthworms and also protect amphibians such as toads
- ✓ Minimise lighting to make gardens friendlier for nocturnal wildlife e.g. hedgehogs and bats
- ✗ Don't use slug pellets – these can kill hedgehogs
- ✗ Don't give them milk or bread – instead, wet cat food is good for them



WILDLIFE FRIENDLY GARDENS

Our gardens at home make up around a fifth of all the land in the borough and they form a corridor of connected green spaces that are vital for many species. This means we can help protect and enhance nature through small actions in their our everyday lives. Making gardens wildlife friendly will attract bugs and insects, which are a key part of the food chain and thus help a wide range of animals.

- ✂ Don't be too tidy – leave some long grass, dead wood and leaves!
- ✂ Use peat-free compost – ideally, make your own
- ✂ Do consider having a pond or birdbath and make sure it has sloping sides
- ✂ Put a bell on your cat and let light into the garden before letting your dog out at night
- ✂ Make small or paved areas, such as the front of your house, green with pots and containers
- ✂ Involve your neighbours and share information and learning

FACT: As well as being wildlife habitats, gardens help drainage and water conservation, air-cooling, air quality, and general health and well-being.



WHAT IS THE RICHMOND BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN?

Since 2005, the borough has a local biodiversity action plan. This plan sets out a strategy for the protection, conservation and enhancement of wildlife within the borough. Through putting it into practice, the plan protects and manages habitats and species of national, regional or local significance, as well as those on Red Lists. This leaflet provides some ideas on how you can help.

You can also get involved and help protect biodiversity by volunteering in parks and green spaces throughout the borough. Go online for more ideas and fun activities for the kids at:

- ✂ www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife
- ✂ www.swlen.org.uk/events
- ✂ www.environmenttrust.org

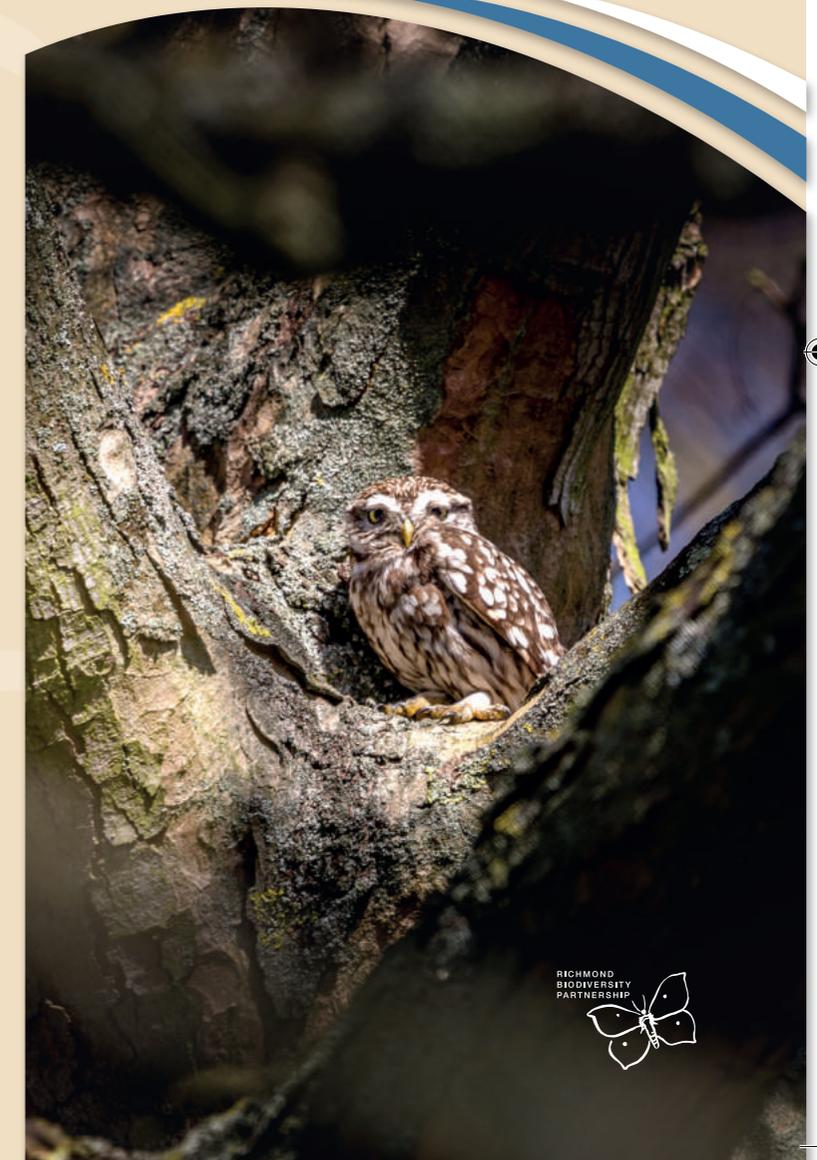
FURTHER INFORMATION

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Local Wildlife Needs Your Help





BEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS

Imagine life without apples, pears, strawberries, beans and peas! Many species are struggling and they are critical to our food crops.

FACT: Half of Britain's 27 bumblebee species are in decline with three already extinct. Over two thirds of butterfly and moth species are also declining.

The tips below will help a wide range of pollinators:

- ✓ Have a patch of long grass or wildflower meadow and have a wild patch
- ✓ Have piles of rocks and wood in your garden or create a bee hotel
- ✓ Leave fruit out on a butterfly table to attract butterflies and other insects
- ✓ Grow a wide variety of bee friendly flowers to provide food all year round – ideally choose native plants in your mix



Follow these simple tips at home to create a wildlife friendly space and help these threatened species.

It's not just wildlife in far-away places, such as polar bears, leopards and rhinos, that are struggling – native UK species are also in decline.

The good news is that we can all help to make the UK more wildlife friendly by following some simple steps. All you need is some outside space - even a window ledge will do.

FACT: The Richmond Borough Biodiversity Action Plan now lists gardens and hedges as key habitats for protecting UK wildlife

These plants can all be found in garden centres and do well in a sunny, sheltered place with lots of water when it gets hot to help them create nectar.

Spring – Lungwort, aubretia, bugle, spotted deadnettle, snake's head fritillary

Summer – Alliums, borage, foxglove, catmint, giant hyssops, Mexican marigold, purple coneflower, jasmine, honeysuckle, sweet rocket, Nicotiana glauca, hemp-agrimony, evening primrose, marjoram

Autumn – Crocus, hellebore, winter heather, mahonia, winter aconite

Winter – Bugbane (*Actaea simplex*), caryopteris, dahlias (*single-flowered*), ivy, Verbena bonariensis, sedum

Hoverflies are also important pollinators and need smaller flowers on plants such as French marigolds (*Tagetes patula*), hares ear (*Bupleurum rotundifolium Griffithii*), hyssop (*Agastaches*), lavender (*Lavandula*), Echinacea purpurea

- ✗ Don't use pesticides – they can kill or harm bees
- ✗ Don't have little or no flowers in your garden – pollinators feed on their nectar
- ✗ Don't install artificial grass or paving – lawns and wildflowers provide food and shelter



BIRDS AND BATS

Most species of bird are in decline and those that were once common, like house sparrows, song thrushes and swifts, are now at risk. Woodland bird species are down by 21%, and farmland birds down a massive 55%.

- ✓ Plant trees with berries such as rowan, hawthorn, ivy and holly
- ✓ Hang bird feeders and fill with nuts and seeds all year round and fat balls in winter
- ✓ Make or buy a bird or bat nesting box. If you are renovating consider installing 'swift bricks'
- ✓ Grow flowers with large seed heads like sunflowers, teasel, phlomis, poppies, evening primrose and alliums, and leave the seed heads on for autumn and winter pickings (goldfinches love them)
- ✓ Grow flowers that release their scent in the evening like angels trumpet, night phlox, regal lilly and petunia to attract night-flying moths and other insects for bats

- ✗ Don't use pesticides – they kill or harm the bugs that birds eat
- ✗ Don't remove/aggressively prune trees, hedges or shrubs – birds and bats use them to nest or shelter

