

Bathscape Board update 30th August 2019

Key actions since last board update (12.6.19)

Project Management

- Our National Lottery third quarterly claim is currently being produced and we remain within budget. We have our annual review with the NLHF booked for mid-October
- The decision for our second match funding bid to Network Rail for further woodland works at Carr's Wood as well as at Pennyquick Park in Twerton has been delayed
- We successfully recruited maternity cover for Julia our Volunteer Co-ordinator and Support Officer, with Kate Barker joining us in late July. Kate has performed a similar role at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and will be with us until mid-January. Julia had a little boy and both are doing well
- We have secured a day a week project support until October from a former B&NES apprentice Will who helped us during the development phase as part of his apprenticeship
- Following Craig Jenkins departure from Visit Bath the interim chair Kathryn Davis will join us on the Bathscape board. Rebecca Reynolds of B&NES public health department has also joined the board in place of Denice Burton
- Our Bathscape Advisory Group will meet on 10th September. Retired B&NES Landscape Architect (and author of our Bathscape Landscape Character Assessment) Andrew Sharland has been invited to join, as has a representative from MoreTreesBath and Joy Roberts from the Bath Mayors guides.

Project Activities

- Our free landowner advisory services were launched at the end of June at Kelston Roundhill with 18 attendees and with presentations from Bathscape, Avon Wildlife Trust, FWAG and National Trust. Advisory service visits are now underway.



- We've held community events at Pennyquick Park, Rosewarn Park, Springfield Park and Kensington Meadows working with local communities. Promotion has been deliberately limited to the immediate locality to hit target audience groups but has seen good numbers, especially at Pennyquick Park in Twerton where around 300 people attended.



- The Wildlife Trust and National Trust joint volunteering project to deliver the Bathscape Grassland Restoration Volunteers and the Community Skills projects is underway through the creation of the Community Action for Nature (CAN) volunteer group.
- The National Trust took delivery of the Bathscape brush harvester and trailer in July and have harvested, dried and stored seed from their fields at Smallcombe and a private meadow in South Stoke using the CAN Volunteers. A quartet of sites will be seeded in September.



- The first of a series of quarterly Outdoor Seasonal Celebration events was held with 'Midsummer' celebrated at Bath City Farm led by Kilter Theatre. 30 people attended (which surpassed our target) though 70 participants had booked on.



- A presentation was given to Bath BID ambassadors outlining the Bathscape project to encourage them to promote the wider landscape.
- During this period we've additionally met with Oval residents, Curo, Myscript, NLHF Bath projects, B&NES Active Lifestyles team, Somer Valley Walking Festival, Twerton councillor Sarah Moore, Monkton Combe School, MoreTreesBath, Dream Big Twerton, St Catherine Parish Council and individual private landowners.

Project promotion

- The initial development work for the website is almost complete and we are now adding content. It should be live by mid-September
- We've had press coverage in the Bath Echo (new Bath free paper) and the Bath Magazine (in an Avon Wildlife Trust based article)
- Our twitter followers are up to 910

Upcoming activities

- We have arranged an ash dieback workshop for local landowners on 3rd September at Freshford
- We are giving a talk to Bath Natural History Society on the evening of 3rd September
- We have the Bathscape Walking Festival running 14th – 22nd September with 50 walks confirmed. Bookings are going well
- We are speaking at Bath City Football club on support for Environmental Themed Projects on the 18th September
- We are speaking at the 'Therapeutic City' conference on the 27th September
- We are speaking to Natural England staff on the 8th October