



**YOUR**

**URBAN WILDLIFE**

**CHAMPION TOOLKIT**

Love **Essex** • Love **Wildlife**



**Essex**  
Wildlife Trust

# THANK YOU

## FOR CHOOSING TO BECOME

## AN URBAN WILDLIFE CHAMPION

You're helping to **protect** and **enhance** Essex's wildlife in towns and villages!

We are so grateful for your incredible support and drive to create change, a wilder Essex is only possible because of people like you and we are here to support you with your Urban Wildlife Champion journey every step of the way.

- Join our communication platforms
- Be inspired by some of our incredible ideas, top tips and tricks
- Learn from current Urban Wildlife Champions
- Co-create with the Urban Engagement Officer
- Involve and engage your local community
- Make a difference



Front cover photo: Tom Marshall Registered Charity Number 210065

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Bird box making photo: Evie and Tom photography

# Next steps

## We have lots of ideas to kick start your Urban Wildlife Champion journey

1

### Join our Urban Wildlife Champion Facebook group

We have created a platform for champions across Essex to connect with one another, share ideas, ask questions and become a community of change. Visit: [www.facebook.com/essexwildlifetrust/groups](https://www.facebook.com/essexwildlifetrust/groups).

2

### Book and attend an initial chat with our Urban Engagement Officer

We have lots of ideas to kick start your Urban Wildlife Champion journey, but first we want to hear from you. We want to hear your ideas and find out how we can support you in your action. Whatever action you decide to take for wildlife in your local community, by signing up and booking an initial chat you are already one step closer to protecting the wildlife in your community. Book your chat with our Urban Engagement Officer, Danielle, by emailing: [daniellec@essexwt.org.uk](mailto:daniellec@essexwt.org.uk).

3

### Plan an action for wildlife

In response to and with support from the Urban Engagement Officer make a plan of action. What action will you take? How will you get started? Who should be involved? Who do you need support from? Do you need funding? What do you want to achieve?

4

### Join webinars, training and workshops

Now you have decided on the action for wildlife you are going to take, you may want to up-level your skills or develop your knowledge. We offer a variety of webinars, workshops and training to help you succeed. Liaise with the Urban Engagement Officer to book these.

5

### Involve your local community

You have a plan, but don't forget to involve your town or village. Reach out to local groups, businesses, organisations, potential volunteers and high profile people in your community. Engage your community using local newspapers, posters, leaflets and social media posts. Share your plans via online meet ups and local events and explain why they are vital for the vision of a wilder Essex.

You could even create your own constituted group or 'friends of' group. You can get further guidance on how to do this here: [www.mycommunity.org.uk/choosing-the-right-organisational-structure-for-your-group](https://www.mycommunity.org.uk/choosing-the-right-organisational-structure-for-your-group). We're here to support you as much as we can every step of the way, however you remain responsible for all your group's activities.

6

### Have fun and take action

You are doing a wonderful thing, so make sure you enjoy every moment of your Urban Wildlife Champions journey. Don't forget to keep your local community and Essex Wildlife Trust up to date. Social media is a great tool to help you connect and celebrate your work. You can also write to your local newspaper, write a Team Wilder blog and contribute to the Urban Wildlife Champions ArcGIS Story Map so everyone can be part of your journey.






Boy gardening photo: Evie and Tom photography

# Actions for Wildlife


Every **action** you take **makes a difference**

- 1

**Campaign for a pesticide-free town or village.**


- 2


**Bring back insects to your local green spaces.**


- 3


**Protect road verges and those forgotten green margins.**


- 4

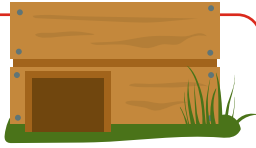
**Connect urban and rural spaces using B-lines.**


- 5

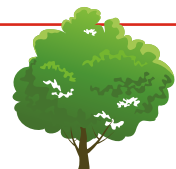
**Encourage wilder streets for hedgehogs and swifts.**


- 6

**Get your neighbours to wild their gardens.**


- 7

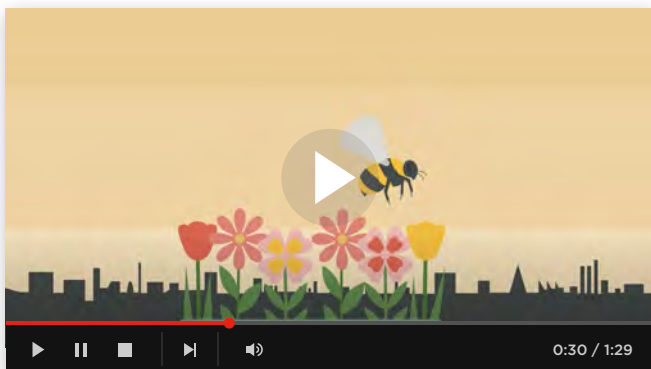
**Increase the urban tree cover by planting mini copses.**


- 8

**Set up a community garden or vegetable patch.**



Watch our #TeamWilder video for some ideas:



Visit our **Team Wilder Blog** for more inspiration:  
[www.essexwt.org.uk/blog/team-wilder](http://www.essexwt.org.uk/blog/team-wilder)



Hedgehog photo: Tom Marshall

# Urban Wildlife

## Nature is closer than you think...

**Danielle, our Urban Engagement Officer explains why connecting habitats within urban landscapes, greening our towns and villages and enhancing our urban blue and green spaces will help our urban wildlife thrive.**

'Towns and villages aren't devoid of wildlife, a whole host of animals and plants share these urban spaces with us. With urban spaces growing it is vital we ensure our green and blue spaces within our urban landscapes can support both people and wildlife. For wildlife, these habitats within the urban environment can act as stepping stones or corridors, providing food and shelter and safe passage. For people, it means access to open wilder spaces and a connectedness to nature.'

Urban green and blue spaces can also help keep our towns and villages fit for the future. They can improve air quality, reduce summer temperatures, reduce flooding and improve wellbeing.'

**"The truth is, the natural world is changing. It is the most precious thing we have and we need to defend it."**

Sir David Attenborough.



**30 by 30**

**Support our 30 by 30 campaign**  
Help us restore 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030:  
[www.essexwt.org.uk/donate](http://www.essexwt.org.uk/donate).





Photo: Penny Dixie

# Stay Safe

A few things to ensure your **urban wildlife support event** is **safe** and **legal** for everyone involved.

## Permission

If you are holding an event or taking action in a public space, please get permission first from the **property owner** or local authority.

## Photos

If you plan to take photos of other people during your actions and events, make sure your attendees are aware and you **gain their consent**.

## Insurance

It is important to have public liability insurance in place if your action or event involves the general public. Check first with the property owner or local authority to see if they have this in place. Please note that Essex Wildlife Trust cannot be held responsible.



Photo: Penny Dixie



Photo: Paul Harris, 2020 VISION



## If you are under the age of 18 years old

You will need to gain **permission from your parent or guardian** to become a Urban Wildlife Champion.

## Data protection

Only collect the information you need, if any. Keep it safe, do not share it and only keep it as long as you need. You can find information about how we protect and use personal data in our privacy policy on our website: [www.essexwt.org.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.essexwt.org.uk/privacy-policy).



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