

EMMA'S POND

Reddish Vale Country Park



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EMMA'S POND – PROJECT 2023 – 2024



History / Location

Emma's Pond is a naturally fed farm pond situated close to Woodhall Fields in Reddish Vale Country Park. Historically, it has been maintained by Park Rangers, SMBC Estates Teams, and Volunteers, but since service reorganisation, the pond has become extremely overgrown and neglected. This is despite the heroic efforts of local resident Les Maddocks, who could often be seen in his waders clearing out the reed mace each Spring. Les is now well into his 80's and is no longer able to carry this work out.

The pond has now become very shallow due to the silting up of the supply channel that feeds it from Nicki's Pond further up hill near Woodhall Car Park. This has enabled reed mace and Himalayan balsam to become dominant in and around the pond, negatively impacting the bio diversity of the area, crowding out other native species such as Greater Bladderwort and Common Water Plantain, upon which insects, amphibians and birds depend.

EMMA'S POND – PROJECT 2023 – 2024

Project

The aim of the project is to:

- 1) Clear the surrounding area of encroaching vegetation such as balsam, reed mace and bramble, improving the aesthetics and sightlines around the pond.
- 2) Dig out and clear the water supply channel from Nicki's Pond to improve the water feed into Emma's Pond
- 3) Excavate the pond to its original depth and size and replant the pond and its margins with native plant species such as Marsh Marigold, Great Water Dock, Yellow Flag Iris, and Water Mint.
- 4) Improve the visitor experience by providing more seating, and a "Pond Life" Interpretation Board.
- 5) Instal some sections of knee rail fencing around the skirt of the pond to discourage dogs entering the water. Disturbance by dogs and contamination of flea treatment chemicals, have a detrimental effect on pond biodiversity and water quality.

EMMA'S POND RESTORATION 2023 /24 - TIMELINE

WORK	COMPLETION	BY WHOM	COST	SOURCE
Cut back / strim surrounding vegetation	Done - Autumn 2023	Countryside Officer	-	-
Dig out / clear supply channel	Done - December 2023	Community Payback	-	-
Excavate pond to required size and depth	By Spring 2024	Redfox Countryside Services	£4,100	Area Committee funds
Replant with native pond and marsh plants	By Spring 2024	Friends of the Vale Volunteers	£400	Area Committee funds
install 3 new sleeper benches	By Summer 2024	Friends of the Vale Volunteers	£750 - approx	Friends of the Vale funds
install "Pond Life" information board	By Summer 2024	Friends of the Vale Volunteers	£1,000 - approx	Friends of the Vale funds
Install knee rail fencing and deck	By Summer 2024	Friends of the Vale Volunteers	£1,500 - approx	Friends of the Vale funds

EMMA'S POND – PROJECT 2023 – 2024

Collaboration

From the timeline you will see that the project will be delivered by a collaboration of Area Committee Funding, Private Contractor work, Community Payback Services, Friends of The Vale Volunteers and Friends Of The Vale funding.

We are asking that the Area Committee provides the funding for the excavation of the pond (£4100 quoted by Redfox Countryside Services) and the purchase of native marsh and pond plants (£400).

Contractor

The contractor, Redfox Countryside Services, has been recommended by Mandy Elford at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit and Lindsay Beaton at The Mersey Rivers Trust. Both have used Redfox for pond restorations and creation.

EMMA'S POND GALLERY







INTERPRETATION BOARDS – EXAMPLES



Our Pond at Otford Primary



Pond Habitat

Ponds are very important for many species; the habitat provides a small area of still freshwater. Many different species of plants, fish, amphibians and invertebrates require a pond to survive.

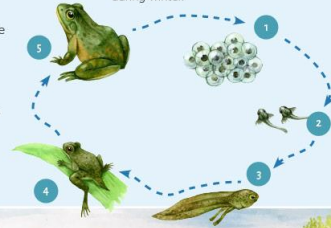
Animals can live in, above or surrounding the pond feeding on snails, insects, fish and plants. Plants growing in the pond provide shelter, food and oxygen for all the pond life.

Spring is an important time for amphibians as they return after winter to mate and spawn. Plants also start to regrow after dying back in the winter months.

During the summer as the temperature increases the pond will begin to dry up as water is lost through evaporation. In autumn ponds become covered with fallen leaves and may even freeze over during winter.

Common frog lifecycle

- 1: Frogspawn (eggs)
- 2: Tadpoles
- 3: Tadpoles develop lungs at about 5 weeks
- 4: Juvenile frog
- 5: Adult frog

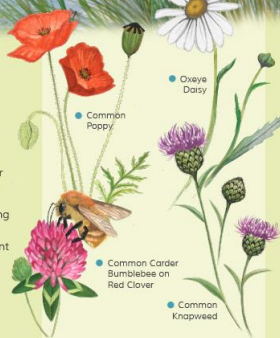


Wildflower Area

Wildflower habitats are an essential resource providing nectar and pollen for invertebrates and insects. Pollinators such as bumblebees, flies, solitary bees, butterflies, moths, bees, wasps and beetles feed on the rich nectar.

By moving from one flower to another to collect more nectar they also carry pollen, fertilising and enabling the plant to produce fruit, seeds and young plants.

The flower life cycle has many different stages from seed, germination, reproduction, pollination and the spreading of seed.



Hedgerow

Hedges provide habitat for a wide range of different species including over 500 plants species, 60 species of nesting bird, countless invertebrates and almost all native mammal species. Hedges support species as they create a route of passage, connecting the landscape.

In spring, hawthorn and blackthorn flowers are used for a food source. After spring blossom the hedge will be laden with nuts and fruit in the autumn, sloes, apples, berries, haws are great for wildlife and foragers too.

In summer, other flowers are available such as honeysuckle and ash keys and aphids are also eaten. Later in the year hazelnuts and blackberries are an invaluable winter food source.



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