WaterSpace Project

Update for Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership Conference

7th Nov 2018

www.youtu.be/JUWJcHdBUes
35 Project Concepts – Area Wide and Location Specific

Objective was to have project concepts ready to go – where funding opportunities exist/Arise
Footbridge marks a big step forward in volunteers’ work

A new path and footbridge has been built as part of the Bathampton Meadows Riverside project.

The new link crosses a stream between Bathampton and Bathampton Toll Bridge, meaning walkers can avoid crossing Mill Lane, which can often be busy.

Volunteers from the group Bathampton and Bathampton River and Footpath Friends (BARRIFS) have been working with parish councils and secured a grant from Bath and North East Somerset Council’s River Corridor Fund to provide amenities such as seating, tables and noticeboards.

Additional funding from the Avon Frome Partnership enabled them to construct the new footbridge.

Peter Fear from BARRIFS said: “This small yet very important footbridge marks a major milestone in the volunteer-led Bathampton Meadows Riverside project.

“It provides a safe and easy pedestrian access from the riverside area to the west side of the very busy Mill Lane.

“The footbridge, expertly assembled by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens, adds another excellent facility to the very popular and accessible stretch of the river Avon between the centre of Bathampton and the Bathampton Toll Bridge.

“The hard working volunteer group, well supported by local organisations, have contributed over 300 voluntary hours and have many plans to continue to improve the riverside space.”

Councillor Martin Veal (Conservat-
PRACTICAL PROJECTS

Practical volunteering projects would be beneficial to improving the riverside environment and engagement with the River Avon Park concept. For example:

Community Litter Picks
Community litter picks could help to clean up the towpath and vegetation, and get local people involved. The Waterspace partnership has already collaborated with local groups in 2017 to deliver some of these with loaned equipment from the Canal & River Trust and B&NES Parks and Cleansing teams.

Yellow Fish Project
There is an opportunity to run 'Yellow Fish' projects to highlight the link between storm drains and water quality. The Environment Agency promotes such projects which involve community engagement to stencil yellow fish, with harmless chalk based non-toxic fish onto storm drains that discharge to the river. This helps raise awareness of water quality issues and is a fun project to get people involved.

Flora and Fauna
Through the Friends of the River Avon Park project there are further opportunities to link up with Project W1 Wilding the River by getting local residents involved in wildlife action and gardening projects and running wildlife walks, river safari, foraging and photography trails. Recent citizen science projects organised by the Waterspace partnership have been very well received.

Art & Craft
There is local interest in volunteer led pop-up arts and craft activities and events which will encourage people to both visit the waterways and get involved in traditional crafts such as traditional boat painting, rope fender design, metal work and canal folk art. In 2017, Julian House held an art exhibition showcasing artists who lived on the waterways, this included photography about life on the Kennet & Avon Canal. Activities like this could be supported, particularly within the River Avon Park area.

Above image used with kind permission from gregsgypsybowtops.co.uk
FESTIVAL OF NATURE
2018

2 June, Green Park – Free Event

3 June
Bathampton Meadow
Wildlife walk
2.30pm-4.00pm

4 June
Tides: The Science and
Spirit of the Ocean
9.30am-7.00pm
at The Station

5 June
How Springwatch
was sprung
6.45pm-8.30pm
at We The Curious

6 June
Gaming, Big Data and
Virtual Reality
7.30pm-9.00pm
at We The Curious

7 June
BBC'S Big Cats
6.30pm-9.00pm
at The Station

7 June
The Nature of Fashion
7.00pm-9.30pm
at Arnolfini

9-10 June
Bristol Festival of Nature
10.00am-6.00pm

Book tickets at www.bnhc.org.uk

DID YOU KNOW!

No strangers are out here.
They're... The Fringe!

No Fringe, please!
Bath Area Community Workboat

https://www.somersetlive.co.uk/whats-on/family-kids/gallery/15-amazing-pictures-forest-imagination-2054806
Eel in the Classroom Eel Release at Newton Brook
18th May 2018
Bath Quays Waterside - After