

Request to create 3 wildflower beds on Christchurch Green

There have been requests to introduce more wildflower areas in Christchurch Green to attract more insects and wildlife to the area.

Proposed locations



Proposal

To create 3 native wildflower areas, using a flower-only seed mix of native seed appropriate to the geology/soil of this location. The seed mix used would not present any risk to nearby natural habitats.

The wildflower areas would be created by the Downs team, using Parks equipment. Management would consist of an annual 'cut and collect' at the end of summer. This could either be carried out by the Downs team, or the cutting could be carried out by volunteers using scythes. If it is done by volunteers, they would be led/supervised by either a member of staff, or by a volunteer who has carried out the Parks Health and Safety training. This ensures the relevant health and safety precautions are taken, and that risk assessments are carried out. Parks can provide scythe training to any individuals interested in regularly helping with this management. Under this arrangement, which is in place across Bristol Parks, the volunteers would be covered by the council's personal accident cover in the same way that staff are.

Temporary laminated signs will be put up when the wildflower beds are created to explain what they are.

Costs

- The cost of the seed is £323
- Preparing the ground and sowing the seed will cost £190
- Maintaining the wildflower areas will involve less staff time than the current cutting regime for these areas (either with or without volunteers), so there will not be any additional cost for maintaining them.

Total cost of the beds = £513

Funding

The Clifton Garden Society are happy to sponsor this initiative and have given permission for £500 to be “used as needed” for the wildflower beds. We would like to provide a permanent information board but we have yet to find funding for this.