

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust



The Broadmarsh reimagined - putting people and nature at the heart of Nottingham's green ambitions.

For more than a decade Nottingham has demonstrated ambition in its commitment to becoming the UK's first carbon neutral city. Following the launch of the 'Big Conversation' about the future of the Broadmarsh area, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, a locally based charity which has championed urban wildlife for over 30 years, believes that Nottingham has a once in a generation opportunity to reshape the fabric of the City to match its green ambitions.

Green cities around the world such as Copenhagen, Freiburg, and Portland share Nottingham's ambitions to cut carbon emissions, but they have set themselves apart by putting nature and accessible greenspace at the heart of urban planning to create vibrant, liveable cities.

Nottingham has greenspaces to be proud of, not least the Arboretum, and magnificent Wollaton Park, but the heart of our city is unmistakably grey not green. As new developments have replaced old, fragments of remaining greenspace have disappeared and opportunities to recreate vital new green areas have been lost. Now is the time to put nature back.

A reimagined Broadmarsh, with 100% of the derelict and demolished site transformed into a natural urban oasis, would become Nottingham's living breathing heartbeat – a mini Central Park where people can connect with nature and escape the stresses of city life without leaving the city.

As Nottingham seeks to recover from the human and economic impacts of the pandemic, a Broadmarsh re-imagined as natural greenspace would improve the health of city residents. It would also demonstrate the city's commitment to tackling the climate and ecological crises as we enter a decade which must deliver transformational change.

With woodland, wetland, wildflower meadows and stunning views towards the iconic Nottingham Castle, a reimagined Broadmarsh would benefit everyone living, working and studying in our city. It would create a space to connect with nature, hear birdsong and smell wild flowers. It would be a spectacular space in which to gather, relax and recharge.

Such a bold green vision could set the city on a course to a greener economic recovery, boosting tourism and stimulating inward investment. As we work to secure 30% of the UK's land for nature by 2030 this should not be the limit of the City's wild green ambition, but should be seen as a catalyst for further investment in existing greenspaces and a springboard for reconnecting our city to the Sherwood Forest landscape.

Such a vision would bring people together and put the city's nature into recovery at a time when natural greenspace has never been more valued or needed.

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FUTURE