

Wildflower Rich Grassland Pilot Report October 2012



Annual mix – Castlebank Park Sept 2012

“The costs of high-maintenance, low biodiversity “green deserts” of much urban greenspace is another example of a problem where ‘nature assisted management’ adopted from ecosystem thinking could be an answer”

Making the most of communities’ natural assets: green infrastructure – Scottish Government. Sep 2012.

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Introduction

During the growing season of 2012 South Lanarkshire Council undertook a pilot “Wildflower Rich Grassland” to investigate alternative options on how to manage grassland in order to get “better value” from its landscape. “Better value” focused on: adding aesthetic value; helping essential pollinators (bees, butterflies and hoverflies); enhancing biodiversity; helping the council lower its carbon footprint; reducing disruption due to less maintenance and contributing to positive health and safety by reducing risk to maintenance operators and users. A number of sites throughout South Lanarkshire were selected to apply different approaches to creating wildflower rich grassland and where appropriate working very closely with the community to help implement and monitor the results.



Bumble bee on Knapweed – Bothwell Nature Trail Aug 2012

“Ideal for schools and nurseries for projects.” John Freeman – Friends of Udston & Glenlee Woods.

Pilot Site	IMPACT ON COUNCIL	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	RECOMMENDATION
Biggar Burn Braes Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced cutting regime. • Partnership management with community. • Improved safety of staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced carbon footprint. • 29 species of flora identified. • Improved conditions for wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue pilot and agreed cutting regime. • Undertake follow up survey.
Bothwell Nature Trail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced cutting regime. • Partnership management with community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced carbon footprint. • 44 species of flora identified. • Improved conditions for wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue pilot and agreed cutting regime. • Undertake follow up survey.
Bothwell Road Central Reservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced need to manage reservation. • Improved safety of staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 species of flora identified. • Improved conditions for wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue pilot and evolve cutting regime. • Undertake follow up survey.
Cambuslang Park – 2 sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced cutting regime • Partnership management with community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced carbon footprint. • 27 and 26 of flora species identified. • Improved conditions for wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue pilot and agreed cutting regime. • Undertake follow up survey. • Enhance Area1 through seed planting.
Castlebank Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced cutting regime. • Partnership management with community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced carbon footprint. • 8 species of for a identified. • Improved conditions for wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue pilot and agreed cutting regime. • Undertake follow up survey.
Forth Public Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced cutting regime • Partnership management with community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced carbon footprint. • 42 species of flora identified. • Improved conditions for wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue pilot and agreed cutting regime. • Undertake follow up survey. • Enhance banking through seed planting.
Glenlee Woods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced cutting regime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced carbon footprint. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue pilot and agreed cutting regime.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership management with community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27 species of flora identified. Improved conditions for wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake follow up survey. Enhance banking through seed and plug planting.
Greenhills road.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced cutting regime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced carbon footprint. 29 species of flora identified. Improved conditions for wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue pilot and agreed cutting regime. Undertake follow up survey.
Lanark Cemetery.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 species of flora identified. New habitat created Improved conditions for wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue pilot and evolve cutting regime. Undertake follow up survey. Cut 1 metre edge to give managed look.
Neilsland Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced cutting regime Partnership management with community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced carbon footprint. 29 species of flora identified. Improved conditions for wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cut pilot area down to smaller size & agree cutting regime. Undertake follow up survey. Enhance new area through seed planting.
Stonehouse Bypass.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced cutting regime Partnership management with community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced carbon footprint. 46 species of flora identified. Improved conditions for wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue pilot and agreed cutting regime. Undertake follow up survey. Re-a-just early season's mowing regime to take into account the cowslip growth

Bothwell Road – A Step by Step.



Road Closure May 2012



Rotovating central reservation May 2012



Raking to a fine tilth May 2012



Preparing to broadcast May 2012



Broadcasting seed May 2012



The clean-up May 2012



Waiting for germination May 2012



Annual seedlings coming through. Aug 2012.



Annual Poppies. Sep 2012.

“Just been to Montrose House for our cycling (Uddingston to Larkhall route) meeting. The traffic island wildflowers at the racecourse are looking terrific” Dennis Walker - Brighter Bothwell/ SLC Access Forum.

Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusion.

- Satisfactory outcomes from the pilot.
- Substantial improvements to biodiversity at all sites.
- Good aesthetic impact.
- Good constructive feedback from both Community groups and SLC Grounds Services.
- No formal complaints regarding pilot.



Poppies – Bothwell Road Central Reservation Sep 2012.

“I thought the wildflowers idea superb especially as the poppies were in the general area of the War Memorial if this was intentional then well thought out. If not well it’s a happy coincidence.” Robert Harkness – Estates Manager SLC

General Recommendations

- Continue with pilot and undertake site by site recommendations.
- Purchase seed to help develop some of the sites in partnership with Community Groups.
- Better attention to agreements made between SLC and local Communities.
- Ensure cut and rake off process takes place before vegetation dies back and starts to enrich the soil.
- Survey sites earlier in the season.
- Investigate equipment to undertake certain operations more efficiently.
- Investigate the reduction of South Lanarkshire’s carbon footprint.

Site by Site Assessments.

Below are the findings including: Site by site assessment; biological recording results; feedback from Community groups; feedback from Grounds Service operators; conclusion and recommendations.

Site Name: Biggar Burnbraes Park. **Location:** Rowhead Terr. Biggar **Grid Ref:** 303920 637923

Area: 2350 M² **Grounds Officer:** Andy Whitelaw. **Current Management:** GB6

Community Group: Friends of Biggar Burnbraes **Other Key Stakeholders:** NA

Ward: W3 Clydesdale East **Elected Members:** Hamish Stewart, Ralph Barker, Bev Gauld

Site Description: Initial site next to Rowhead was not suitable with the adjacent residents but agreed on an alternative site with the group and ground services. The pilot site is on the sloped ground on the western side of the park with Rowhead Terrace at the top. The site is 2350 M² of grassland within a public park of around 45000 M². There is a Community group associated with the park, Friends of Biggar Burn Braes who are very keen and have agreed to work with SLC to undertake the pilot.

Proposal: To cease the current mowing regime for the area and monitor through out the season including a biological survey of the area toward the end of the season. Cut a metre buffer zone around site to keep paths clear of vegetation and give a managed appearance. Cut and remove arisings at the end of the growing season.



Perennial display – Biggar Burnbraes Park Jun 2012

“Generally very positive public comments including several asking how Friends of Burnbraes could afford to plant so many flowers!” Janet Moxley – Friends of Biggar Burnbraes.

Recording:

Common Name	Botanical Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Bird's-foot trefoil	<i>Lotus cornicalatus</i>	Germander speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
Lady's mantle	<i>Alchemilla vulgaris</i>	Wood speedwell	<i>Veronica montana</i>
Northern marsh orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella</i>	Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Greater stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>
Sow thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Knotgrass	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>
Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Lesser stitchwort	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>
Cuckoo flower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perenis</i>	Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Lady's bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>
Sheep sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
Orange hawkweed	<i>Hieracium Spp.</i>		
Yellow hawkweed	<i>Hieracium Spp.</i>	Mosses	<i>Bryophyta Spp.</i>
Rosebay willowherb	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Pineapple mayweed	<i>Matricaria matricarioides</i>
		Total Spp.	29

Information: Good diversity of grasses and wildflower species with in the area. Good colour coming from species such as Cuckoo flower, yarrow, harebell, orange and yellow hawkweed. This area has already been subject to a management regime consistent with reducing fertility and the diversity of flora has benefited from it.

Community group was very supportive through out the pilot and got involved with biological survey.

Recommendation: Continue with the pilot area in partnership with the community group. Continue to reduce fertility through cut and removal of arisings. Continue to monitor species.



Scottish Bluebells – Biggar Burnbraes Park

“It is a bit more like the old idyllic photos of the park I have seen with children playing in a brook in the countryside, (Burnbraes Park!).” Amy Palmer – Friends of Biggar Burnbraes.

Site Name: Bothwell Nature Trail **Location:** Clyde Terrace, Bothwell **Grid Ref:** 270133 65441

Area: 4020 M² **Grounds Officer:** Iain Stewart **Current Management:** G03

Community Group: Brighter Bothwell. Bothwell Organic Growers. **Other Key Stakeholders:** NA

Ward: W16 Bothwell & Uddingston. **Elected Members:** Maureen Devlin, Jim McGuigan, Anne Kegg

Site Description: 4020 M² of grassland, formerly old railway bed close to the centre of Bothwell. The site is flat and there is standing water and marsh with in the site. The site was established several years ago through plug planting but the success of the site has been due to reduction of soil fertility through cut and removal of arisings. There are two Community groups associated with the park, Brighter Bothwell and Bothwell Organic Growers, both very keen and have agreed to work with SLC to undertake the pilot. Bothwell Organic Growers have also agreed to grow on wildflower plugs for use at other sites.

Proposal: To continue the current mowing regime of one cut at the end of the season for the area and monitor through out the season including a biological survey of the area toward the end of the season. Cut a metre buffer zone around site to keep paths clear of vegetation and give a managed appearance Cut and remove arisings at the end of the growing season.

Recording:

Common Name	Botanical Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Bird's-foot trefoil	<i>Lotus cornicalatus</i>	Germander speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
Crested dog's tail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Hoary willowherb	<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Yellow flag iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
Tufted vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Red bartsia	<i>Odontites verna</i>
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Common spotted orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Red campion	<i>Seline dioica</i>
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Hedge woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
Meadow cranesbill	<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Yellow rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>
Oxeye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Mouse-ear chickweed	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
Rosebay willowherb	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Marsh willowherb	<i>Epilobium palustre</i>
Knotgrass	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Lesser stitchwort	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>
Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
Stunted dock	<i>Rumex Spp.</i>	Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Common knapweed	<i>Centauera nigra</i>	Soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
Oval sedge	<i>Carex leporina</i>	Jointed rush	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylus glomerata</i>	Sweet vernal grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Mosses	<i>Bryophyta Spp.</i>
		Total Spp.	44



Oxeye Daisy Bothwell Nature Trail – Aug 2012

Information: Excellent diversity of grasses and wildflower species within the area. The group have noticed the difference in the dynamics of the area since the continual reduction of fertility within the soil. This year has been a particularly good year for the number of common spotted orchids on the site. Excellent colour from orchids, oxeye daisy, knapweed, purple loosestrife, red campion and yellow flag iris. Both Community Groups were very supportive of the pilot. Bothwell Organic Growers successfully grew on 900 wildflower plugs. Both groups were involved with the biological survey.

Recommendation: Continue with the pilot area in partnership with the community groups. Continue to reduce fertility through cut and removal of arisings. Continue to monitor species.



Brighter Bothwell Members involved in biological recording – Sep 2012

“Working in partnership with SLC has developed and built on good working relationships.” – Brighter Bothwell.

Site Name: Bothwell Rd Central Reservation.

Location: Bothwell Rd, Hamilton

Grid Ref: 271261 657217 **Area:** 5100 M²

Grounds Officer: Iain Stewart

Current Management: RVC Community **Group:** NA **Other Key Stakeholders:** NA

Ward: W17 Hamilton North & East **Elected Members:** Lynne Adams, Monica Lennon, Davie McLachlan

Site Description: 5100 M² of central reservation. Soil is very poor and sandy. Previously planted up with a number of schemes which have failed over the years. It is surmised that this is due to the pollutant content through car exhaust and salt. Site was treated with residual weed killer 3 weeks prior to seed planting.



Mayweed Bothwell Road – Aug 2012

Proposal: Mid May - Close road, rotovate, broadcast seed and rake in. Seed mix consisting of Annual mix: cornflower, corn marigold, corn poppy, long headed poppy, scentless mayweed and forget-me-not to give colour during first season. A perennial mix (Scotia mavisbank mix) planted along with the annuals to establish as a long-term sward.

Recording:

Common Name	Botanical Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Long-headed poppy	<i>Papaver dubium</i>	Cornflower	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>
Corn poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Corn marigold	<i>Glebionis segetum</i>
Scentless mayweed	<i>Triplospermum inodorum</i>		
		Total Spp.	5

Information: Very poor germination in early stages. This may be due to a number of factors: high content of salt within the soil; high level of residual pollutants from car exhaust; the residual effect of weed killer with in the soil. Germination was evident from mid July on. The majority of germination was due to the poppy spp. By August poppies were flowering and through the month of September gave a spectacular showing. There was evidence of scentless mayweed, cornflower and corn marigold but this was very sparse. There is no sign of perennials coming through.

Recommendation: Allow the poppy species to die back and therefore seed into the area. If the spent vegetation becomes a problem to driving safety rake off. Continue with the pilot area and monitor throughout next year. Reassess cutting regime next season.

“I use this road regularly and find on each occasion my attention is drawn to the flowers – quite a soothing effect especially if you are in a queue!” – Michael Madden, Estate Surveyor SLC

Site Name: Cambuslang Park

Location: Cairns Rd., Cambuslang

Grid Ref: 264463 659564

Area: 13231 M²

Grounds Officer: Ian McCaig

Current Management: G03

Community Group: Friends of Cambuslang Park **Other Key Stakeholders:** Abi Boyd - CAG

Ward: W13 Cambuslang West & W14 Cambuslang East

Elected Members: Russell Clearie, Claire McColl, Richard Tullet, Walter Brogan, Pam Clearie, Christine Deanie

Site Description: As part of the Cambuslang Park refurbishment there were two areas planted up with wildflower plugs. It was agreed these two areas would become part of the pilot. Both areas, with a combined area of 13231 M² from an approximate park area of 180,000 M² would normally be cut as amenity grassland at least 18 times with in the growing season. Both areas have slight slopes and traditionally very little biodiversity value due to cutting regime.

Proposal: Leave both areas to develop through out growing season. Monitor through out growing season and undertake a biological survey. Cut a metre buffer zone around site to keep paths clear of vegetation and give a managed appearance. Curt and remove all arisings at the end of the season.



Betony Cambuslang Park – Aug 2012



Site 1 Meadow in Cambuslang Park – Jun 2012

Recording: Site 1.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Bird's-foot trefoil	<i>Lotus cornicalatus</i>	Germander speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
Bettony	<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	Wild pansy	<i>Viola tricolor</i>
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Spiny restharrow	<i>Ononis spinosa</i>	Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Ragged robin	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Tufted vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>
Cuckooflower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perenis</i>	Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Speedwell spp.	<i>Plantaginaceae family</i>
Knotgrass	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Lesser stitchwort	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>
Yellow hawkweed	<i>Hieracium Spp.</i>	Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Common knapweed	<i>Centauera nigra</i>	Mosses	<i>Bryophyta Spp.</i>
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylus glomerata</i>	Perennial ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Total Spp.	27

Site 2.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Bettony	<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	Chickweed	<i>Chickweed family</i>
Common hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Common toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Slender speedwell	<i>Veronica filiformis</i>	Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Spiny restharrow	<i>Ononis spinosa</i>
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Tufted vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>
Cuckooflower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
Curled dock	<i>Rumex crispis</i>	Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Jointed rush	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Yellow hawkweed	<i>Hieracium Spp.</i>
Creeping soft grass	<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Perennial ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Mosses	<i>Bryophyta Spp.</i>
		Total Spp.	26

Information: A disappointing level of diversity considering both areas were planted up with wildflower plugs at 4 plants per metre. Despite the lack of plug evidence the diversity of the area has improved. There is an abundance of bees and hoverflies in both areas but very little evidence of them in the other grassland areas with in the park. There were a number of interesting species: Spiny restharrow (not usually found in Scotland,) Wild pansy, Bettony and Toadflax. Community group was very supportive through out the pilot and got involved with biological survey

Recommendation: Continue the pilot areas in partnership with the community group. Continue to reduce fertility through cut and removal of arisings. Work with Community group and ground services to enhance site 1. through seed planting. Continue to monitor species.



Ragged Robin, Cambuslang Park – Jun 2012

“Dog walkers said their dogs enjoyed running through the long grass”. – Joy Anderson, Friends of Cambuslang Park.



Hover fly on Knapweed , Cambuslang Park Jul 2012

Site Name: Castlebank Park

Location: St Patrick's Rd, Lanark

Grid Ref: 287732 643276

Area: 718 M²

Grounds Officer: Andy Whitelaw

Current Management: G03

Community Group: Friends of Castlebank Park. **Other Key Stakeholders:** Lanark In Bloom

Ward: W2 Clydesdale North **Elected Members:** Ed Archer, Catherine McClymont, Viviane Shaw

Site Description: 718 M² of grass embankment adjacent to main driveway within the park. The area follows the line of the driveway and consists predominantly of grasses with stands of Rhododendron along the length of the driveway. There is slight shade from the tree canopy on the other side of the driveway.

Proposal: Early May – Scrape of top layer of vegetation, rotovate banking introduce seed mix consisting of Annual mix: cornflower, corn marigold, corn poppy, long headed poppy, scentless mayweed and forget-me-not to give colour during first season. Incorporate a perennial mix (Scotia hedgerow mix, tolerant of shade) along with the annuals to establish as a long-term sward. Cut and remove all arisings at the end of the growing season.

Community group took advantage of the preparation work undertaken by grounds services to plant area with spring bulbs- Snowdrops and Bluebells.

Castlebank Park.



Scraping off top vegetation – May 2012



Raking to a fine tilth – May 2012



Germination taking place – May 2012



Thriving seedlings – Jun 2012

“I have received several complimentary comments about the display from regular dog walkers to the park so I certainly think it was a worthwhile project.” Sylvia Russell – Friends of Castlebank Park

Recording:

Common Name	Botanical Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Long-headed poppy	<i>Papaver dubium</i>	Cornflower	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>
Corn poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Corn marigold	<i>Glebionis segetum</i>
Scentless mayweed	<i>Triplospermum inodorum</i>	Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
		Total Spp.	8



Annual Mix on Castlebank Park Drive – Aug 2012

Information: From the three areas planted with seed this year this site had the most successful germination. There was an excellent showing of all the annual species. There was however an inconsistency with the annual's growth along the length of the site. It is surmised these less successful areas correlate with the areas where rhododendron was removed. There was evidence of perennial growth but more than likely from residual flora left over from the vegetation scrape rather than the seed mix planted.



Bumble bee on cornflower at Castlebank Park – Sep 2012

Recommendation: Continue with the pilot area in partnership with the community group. Introduce an annual cut at the end of the growing season and remove of all arisings. Monitor site, in particular for perennial evidence.

Site Name: Forth Public Park

Location: Manse Rd. Forth

Grid Ref: 294685 654173

Area: 1888 M²

Grounds Officer: Peter Headley

Current Management: G03

Community Group: Forth & District Initiative. Forth In Bloom

Other Key Stakeholders: NA

Ward: W2 Clydesdale North **Elected Members:** Ed Archer, Catherine McClymont, Viviane Shaw

Site Description: The initial site chosen on the Longdales was not suitable to the group. They wanted to focus their Beautiful Scotland in Bloom efforts and they wanted The Longdales to give a different impact. An alternative site within the public park was agreed on by the groups and Ground Services. The 1888 M² area (from a total of 85000 M²) comprises of a small bit of banking and several areas of wet grassland, all adjacent to the Manse Road.

Proposal: To cease mowing and monitor the species. Mowing ceased for the site at the end of June with a view to cut once at the end of the growing season and remove all arisings. Cut a metre buffer zone around site to keep paths clear of vegetation and give a managed appearance



Ringlet butterflies on ragwort, Forth Public park – Jul 2012



Devil's Bit Scabious, Forth Public park – Sep 2012

“Provided a safer system of work for Employees; one off cut and rake off as opposed to mowing the grass every fortnight” Jim Robertson – SLC Grounds Services.

Recording:

Common Name	Botanical Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Bird's-foot trefoil	<i>Lotus cornicalatus</i>	Water forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Devil's bit scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
Bush vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Meddick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Yellow hawkweed	<i>Hieracium Spp.</i>
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Daisy	<i>Bellis perenis</i>
Cuckooflower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>

Curled dock	<i>Rumex crispis</i>	Mouse-ear chickweed	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
Rosebay willowherb	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Wood speedwell	<i>Veronica montana</i>
Heath bedstraw	<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Lady's bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>
Horsetail	<i>Equisetaceae Spp.</i>	Meadow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>
Common sow thistle	<i>Cicerbita macrophylla</i>	Creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
Mouse ear	<i>Cerastium Spp.</i>	Bent grass	<i>Agrostis Spp.</i>
Scentless mayweed	<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Glaucous sedge	<i>Carex flacca</i>
Greater stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Floating sweet grass	<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>
Ground elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Common sedge	<i>Carex nigra</i>
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Common knapweed	<i>Centauera nigra</i>	Tufted hair grass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>
Oval sedge	<i>Carex leporina</i>	Jointed rush	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>
Soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Sweet vernal grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Mosses	<i>Bryophyta Spp.</i>
		Total Spp.	42

Information: Excellent diversity of grasses and wildflower species with in the area. This is due to the diversity of habitats with in the area – ranging from dry embankment to areas of standing water. Excellent colour during the summer months from Bird's-foot trefoil, Bush vetch, Yellow hawkweed, Selfheal and Devil's bit scabious. The group were pleased with the results and would be pleased to continue with the development of the site to contribute to their “In Bloom” efforts. There was community involvement with the biological survey of the site. The site was cut and arisings removed during the last week of September.

Recommendation: Continue the pilot area in partnership with the community group. Continue to reduce fertility through cut and removal of arisings. Work with community and Ground services to enhance the banking through seed planting and plug planting. Continue to monitor species.

Forth Public Park



Selfheal & Hawkweed – Jul 2012



Strimming area – Sep 2012



Raking off arisings – Sep 2012

Site Name: Glenlee Woods **Location:** Russell St. Burnbank **Grid Ref:** 269528 656149
Area: 1311 M² **Grounds Officer:** Iain Stewart **Current Management:** G03
Community Group: Friends of Udston & Glenlee Woods
Other Key Stakeholders: Louisa Maddison - CAG

Ward: W17 Hamilton North & East, W18 Hamilton West & Earnock

Elected Members: Lynne Adams, Monica Lennon, Davie McLachlan, John Menzies, Alan Falconer, Graeme Horne, Jean McKeown

Site Description: 1311 M² area of open grassland with in a total woodland area of 42000 M². The site is flat and was formally the site of an old estate house. There is not a great deal of flowering diversity currently on the site. Predominantly grasses.



Members of Friends of Udston & Glenlee along SLC Ranger Service survey Glenlee site – Aug 2012

“I think it was a good idea to let the sites grow for a year in case anything interesting grew up but grass etc is always going to be abundant without intervention.” Louisa Maddison – Countryside Ranger

Proposal: To cease the current mowing regime for the area and monitor through out the season. Undertake a biological survey of the area toward the end of the season. Cut a metre buffer zone around site to keep paths clear of vegetation and give a managed appearance. Cut and remove arisings at the end of the growing season.

Recording:

Common Name	Botanical Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Angelica	<i>Angelica archangelica</i>	Common hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Common spotted orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Crested dog's tail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Ground elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Ground ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Lady's mantle	<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Marsh willowherb	<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
Rosebay willowherb	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Perennial rye grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylus glomerata</i>	Creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Total Spp.	27

Information: Not a great deal of colour although there is a fair amount of species diversity. Community involved in biological recording (Not just this site but others too) Group is very keen to develop the site for environmental education and feel this area would be ideal for this purpose.

Recommendation: Continue the pilot area in partnership with the community group. Continue to reduce fertility through cut and removal of arisings. Work with community group and ground services to enhance area through plug/seed planting. Use the plugs brought on by the community groups. Continue to monitor species.

“A danger that they are not perceived by the public as attractive or “useful” parts of their environment and consideration must be given to this in any future development of the Project.” JimMcHugh – Friends of Udston & Glenlee Woods.

Site Name: Greenhills Rd **Location:** Greenhills Rd. East Kilbride **Grid Ref:** 262201 652097

Area: 7249 M² **Grounds Officer:** John Smyth **Current Management:** G03 / G05

Community Group: NA **Other Key Stakeholders:** Friends of Langlands Moss

Ward: W6 East Kilbride South **Elected Members:** Archie Buchanan, Jim Docherty, Douglas Edwards

Site Description: 7249 M² of damp grassland on Greenhills Road, East Kilbride (opposite Morrison's supermarket) The area forms a hill with a steep embankment on the roadside opposite Morrison's. The area is currently not showing good diversity of species.

Proposal: To cease the current mowing regime for the area and monitor through out the season including a biological survey of the area toward the end of the season. Cut and remove arisings at the end of the growing season. Embankment will be cut to maintain an aesthetic look and reduce safety risk to grounds operators.



Hawkweed coming into flower, Greenhills Road – Jul 2012

Recording:

Common Name	Botanical Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Bird's-foot trefoil	<i>Lotus cornicalatus</i>	Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meddick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
Cuckoo flower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Common mouse ear	<i>Cerastium Spp.</i>	Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Broad-leaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perenis</i>	Curled dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
Field horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
Greater stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Hop trefoil	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>
Glaucous sedge	<i>Carex flacca</i>	Soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
Oval sedge	<i>Carex leporina</i>	Jointed rush	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylus glomerata</i>	Perennial rye grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Marsh foxtail	<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>
Moss	<i>Rhytidadelphus squarrosus</i>		
		Total Spp.	29



Greenhill Rd. meadow and managed apron – Jul 2012

Information: There is a fair diversity of species but the site lacks the colour of flowering plants. There was a good show of cuckoo flower early on in the growing season. There is no community group directly attached to the site but the Friends of Langlands Moss have been involved in monitoring the area.

Recommendation: Continue the pilot area and continue to reduce fertility through cut and removal of arisings. Continue to monitor species.



Friends of Langlands Moss and SLC Ranger Service surveying Greenhills Rd. site – Sep 2012

Site Name: Lanark Cemetery

Location: Lanark

Grid Ref: 291336 642757

Area: 7850 M²

Grounds Officer: Andy Whitelaw

Current Management: N/A New site

Community Group: NA

Other Key Stakeholders: NA

Ward: W2 Clydesdale North

Elected Members: Ed Archer, Catherine McClymont, Viviane Shaw

Site Description: Area of 7850 M² from the ??????? of total area of cemetery. Site is a flat area of very sandy soil, previously farmland. Species present include dock, thistle and rosebay willowherb.

Proposal: Weedkill existing vegetation, introduce wildflower seed mix and roll into soil. Seed mix consists of Annual mix: cornflower, corn marigold, corn poppy, long headed poppy, scentless mayweed and forget-me-not to give colour during first season. Incorporate a perennial mix (Scotia dry meadow mix suitable for dry sandy soils) along with the annuals to establish as a long-term sward. Cut and remove all arisings at the end of the growing season.

Recording:

Common Name	Botanical Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Long-headed poppy	<i>Papaver dubium</i>	Cornflower	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>
Corn poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Corn marigold	<i>Glebionis segetum</i>
Scentless mayweed	<i>Triplospermum inodorum</i>	Rosebay willowherb	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Bird's-foot trefoil	<i>Lotus cornicalatus</i>
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Total Spp.	13

Information: Very poor germination early on after seed sowing. The site was very dry due to the spell of sunny weather and any rain with in this period would drain very quickly. Germination was evident mid July with flowering of cornflower, corn marigold in mid August. No real sign of the perennial mix coming through except for the Bird's-foot trefoil.

Recommendation: Continue the pilot area. Introduce a yearly cut and remove of all arisings. Monitor site, in particular for perennial evidence. Cut a metre buffer zone on site edge to keep path/road clear of vegetation and give a managed appearance



Annual flowering, Lanark Cemetery – Jul 2012

“I see your wildflowers are doing great on Bothwell Road!! They look great and much better than it looked before – well done for your perseverance. The more areas like this the better is what I think!”

Julie Richmond – SLC Carbon Management Development Officer

Site Name: Neilsland Park

Location: Hamilton

Grid Ref: 270208 653980

Area: 2345 M²

Grounds Officer: Iain Currie

Current Management: G03

Community Group: New Roots – Friends of Neilsland & Earnock Woods

Other Key Stakeholders: Chris McGinley - CAG

Ward: W19 Hamilton South, W18 Hamilton West & Earnock

Elected Members: Joe Lowe, Bobby Lawson, Angela Crawley, Brian McCaig, John Menzies, Alan Falconer, Graeme Horne, Jean McKeown

Site Description: Four lengths of 5m wide strips totalling 2345 M² of open and partially shaded grassland with in a total 13800 M² area of woodland. The strips are spread over three open areas which cascade downhill. The open areas are very damp and this is reflected through the vegetation.

Proposal: To cease the current mowing regime for the agreed areas and monitor through out the season. Undertake a biological survey of the areas toward the end of the season. Cut and remove arisings at the end of the growing season.



Yellow Hawkweed and Yorkshire Fog, Neilsland Park – Sep 2012

“A park like Neilsland needs to be appealing to people as well as wildlife.” Margaret Clark – Neilsland Park

Recording:

Common Name	Botanical Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Angelica	<i>Angelica archangelica</i>	Common hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Cuckoo flower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Marsh bedstraw	<i>Gallium palustre</i>
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Yellow Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium Spp.</i>	Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Marsh foxtail	<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Greater birdsfoot trefoil	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Rosebay willowherb	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Mouse ear	<i>Cerastium Spp.</i>	Japanese knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>
Perennial rye grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>
Soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Jointed rush	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Moss	<i>Bryophyta Spp.</i>
marsh willowherb	<i>Epilobium palustre</i>		
		Total Spp.	29

“I am disappointed by the lack of wild flower on show, is it possible for you to introduce additional planting for the site (taking into account the ground condition) either in the form of plug planting of seed planting.” Iain Currie – SLC Ground Services.

Information: Due to the very poor weather through out the summer there was very little cutting on site. The site is normally cut by tractor and gang mower but with the amount of water on site this method would have compromised the surface. This left the pilot areas undefined for part of the summer. Although there is a good natural diversity to the pilot sites there is very little flower colour. Community group was very supportive through out the pilot and got involved with biological survey

Recommendation: Reduce size of pilot area to a more manageable size and pick an area that will suit Ground services. Work with community and Ground Services to enhance the chosen area through seed planting. Continue with one cut and removal of arisings at the end of the season. Continue to monitor species.



Members of New Roots and SLC Ranger Service surveying Neilsland site – Aug 2012

Site Name: Stonehouse Bypass. **Location:** A71 Stonehouse. **Grid Ref:** 274940 646359

Area: 2187 M² **Grounds Officer:** Brian Hampsey **Current Management:** RVC

Community Group: Stonehouse Brighter Village & Stonehouse Development Trust.

Other Key Stakeholders: NA **Ward:** W5 Avondale & Stonehouse

Elected Members: Graeme Campbell, Margaret Cooper, Isobel Dorman, Bill Holman

Site Description: 2187 M² of formal road verge. Area bordered by pavement adjacent to A71 and residential gardens to the rear of site. Was part of the original “Biobanks Project” and has been in and out meadow management since. The local group has been involved by planting plugs to increase diversity of area.

Proposal: To continue with the one cut at the end of the season with the removal of all arisings. Monitor throughout the season. Undertake a biological survey toward the end of the season

Recording:

Common Name	Botanical Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Bush vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>
Crested dog's tail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Meddick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Tufted vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Meadow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
Ground elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Red campion	<i>Seline dioica</i>
Hawksweed Spp.	<i>Hieracium Spp.</i>	White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Common hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Meadow scabious	<i>Knautia Arvensis</i>
Meadow cranesbill	<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Spear thistle	<i>Cirium vulgare</i>
Oxeye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium Spp.</i>
Rosebay willowherb	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Broadleaved willowherb	<i>Epilobium montanum</i>
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
Rose sp.	<i>Rosa Spp.</i>	Perforated St. John's wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
Wild marjoram	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Field horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium Spp.</i>
Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Lady's bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Ground ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylus glomerata</i>	Sweet vernal grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Reed canary grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>
		Total Spp.	46



Wildflower and apron areas, Stonehouse Bypass – Jun 2012



Wildflower and apron areas, Stonehouse Bypass – Jul 2012

“The bypass also retains a great number of wild flower species and fungi which naturally occur without planting again, greatly improving the view for residents and passing traffic.” John Young – Stonehouse Development Trust

Information: Throughout the summer the site gave an excellent showing of colour and diversity. This reflects the previous intervention and appropriate management intermittently over a number of years. Excellent show of colour from oxeye daisy, knapweed, hawkweed, meadow scabious, vetches, campion and clovers. It was interesting to find wild marjoram growing well on the site. In the peak of its growth the site showed a high abundance of invertebrate species such as bees, hover flies and butterflies. Community group was very supportive of the pilot and got involved with biological survey.

Recommendation: Continue the pilot area in partnership with the community group. Continue to reduce fertility through cut and removal of arisings. Re-a-just early season’s mowing regime to take into account the cowslip growth. Continue to monitor species.



Common Orchid, Stonehouse Bypass – Jul 2012



In Bloom members and SLC Ranger Service survey site – Sep 2012

General Conclusion

Pilot results – The pilot went very well within the ethos being “experimental.” The three areas which were planted up all showed some form of flowering result. The most successful being Castletank Park in Lanark. The remaining areas left uncut this season were all showing a good variety of species but possibly not the desired aesthetics. This could be remedied by supplement planting.

Biodiversity improvements – Although the areas which were not planted up this year with seed may not have been aesthetically appealing there were many benefits to wildlife. Flowers gave pollinators like bees and hoverflies opportunities they would not have on the sites. Long grasses and sedges gave cover to small mammals and other invertebrates. This would obviously have a positive affect on upper species with in the food chain.

Aesthetic impact – There were some spectacular results even on sites that were not planted with seed this year. Forth public park, which was a second choice site later into the season, was one of the highlights of the pilot. With 42 species surveyed it was one of the most diverse sites in the pilot but with species such as hawkweed, orchid, cuckoo flower, devil’s bit scabious among many others it was also one of the most aesthetic. Along with Forth the sites at Bothwell Nature Trail and Stonehouse bypass were very aesthetically pleasing and had an excellent breadth of diversity. This would imply that there does not have to be a lot of capital investment to achieve biodiversity and aesthetic benefits. The sites which were planted with seed this season; Bothwell Road; Castletank Park; and Lanark Cemetery all had an element of aesthetic beauty. This was down to the annual mix which was planted to give some colour in the first growing season. There was however an anomaly on Bothwell Road whereby only two of the five annual species were successful. These were two species of poppy and despite the general failure of the full mix the poppies gave a stunning red ribbon running the full length of the road and attracted very positive comments and feedback.

Feedback/Evaluation – Good constructive feedback from Community Groups and Ground Services. Generally speaking the Community Groups were very positive and willing to support future development of the initiative. There was however some feedback suggesting more/better communication, signage to inform public, better attention to agreements with the Council. Ground services submitted feedback and like the community groups were generally supportive of the initiative, for example resultant safety improvements were highlighted as well as the suggestions to plant up areas with less aesthetic diversity. Individual council officers commented positively on some of the sites.

Complaints – No formal complaints were received. The complaint management system was set up to capture specific complaints relating to the pilot in order to feed into the report. There were no complaints through this mechanism exclusively relating to the pilot. There was however one complaint which included reference to one of the sites. The groups themselves acted as ambassadors for the pilot with in their locale, all local elected members associated with the site were briefed on the pilot and there were articles on the SLC website and Tweet account. All of these may have been contributory to the lack of complaints.

General Recommendations

Continue with pilot and undertake site by site recommendations. Build on the success of the initial pilot to investigate change through intervention on some of the sites.

Purchase seed – yellow rattle and single spp. to help develop some of the sites in partnership with Community Groups. Some of the sites have very active community groups associated. Volunteers and Ranger service could run events to plant wildflower seed on: Cambuslang Park; Glenlee Woods; Neilsland Park and Forth Public Park. Yellow rattle needs a long stratification time and would be required to be planted this year.

Buy/rent appropriate equipment to expand – investigate equipment to undertake certain operations more efficiently.

Any agreement with Community Groups must be undertaken. The community groups are a valuable asset to the project as they can act as local ambassadors for the council. They can help to educate local residents with regard to the ethos behind changes in grass management. A number of groups have brought up the same concern about agreements and this has led to a deterioration of relationships which have been building over years.

Survey sites earlier in the season. Undertake biological survey earlier in order to see more plants in flower and make it more interesting to groups.

Ensure cut and rake off process takes place before vegetation dies back and starts to enrich the soil. Some of the sites demonstrate excellent diversity along with aesthetic benefits as a result of intermittent management. If we can consolidate this management to remove nutrients in the soil diversity and aesthetics should improve.

Investigate the reduction of South Lanarkshire's carbon footprint. Grounds Services and the Carbon Management Development Officer to liaise to calculate carbon reduction of various vehicles used to manage grassland.



Wildlife and Play at Nairn/Greir St Larkhall. – Aug 2012

Feedback - Community & Ground Services.

Most of the Community Groups involved with the pilot submitted feedback. Generally the feedback was constructive and supportive of the initiative.

Biggar Burnbraes Park.

Wildflower Rich Grassland Pilot - 2012

Name: Janet Moxley

Group/Area service: Friends of Burnbraes Park

Name of site: Burnbraes Park, Biggar

Can you list as many positive aspects as you can regarding the Project and Pilot site:

Site looking much more attractive.

Lots more flowers and associated invertebrate life. This has increase number of birds in the area particularly swallows, swifts etc. Also some evidence of small mammals using longer grass e.g tunnels through the lower part of the sward.

Generally very positive public comments including several asking how Friends of Burnbraes could afford to plant so many flowers!

Initial concerns from the public that area might entrap litter have been unfounded.

Has attracted new members to the Friends of Burnbraes Park group.

Gerry Devaney had been involved with the project in 2012 (change to mowing in 2011 was instigated by Friends of Burnbraes in consultation with SLC prior to wider project in 2012). Gerry has been very helpful and supportive both of this project and other work that Friends of Burnbraes is doing and has been a useful source of information on training and events of interest to the group. This has strengthen relations between SLC and Friends of Burnbraes.

May have reduced CO2 emissions from mowing.
May have increased ecosystem carbon storage.
Improves safety of mowing staff as less need to mow steep slopes.

Can you list as many negative aspects as you can regarding the Project and Pilot site:

There have been a few “hiccoughs” with the mowing in both 2011 and 2012. Friends of Burnbraes probably should have done more to engage with residents immediately adjacent to the trial area to explain what was happening. At end of the 2011 season a slightly revised mowing plan was agreed, but unfortunately not followed on all occasions during 2012 which has given a strong adverse reaction from one resident who is unfortunately against any changes to the mowing regime. In contrast all of the other residents who had concerns about the changes to mowing in 2011 are now supportive and two have joined the Friends of Burnbraes Park group. It is also regrettable that one disciplinary action appears to have been taken against one member of SLC staff for not following the agreed mowing regime as the individual concerned is a friend of the Chair of Biggar Community Council and this has attracted led to some criticism of the project from the Community Council.

Areas of longer grass (above knee height) have been less positively received to area with a shorter more flowerly sward.

Some initial concerns about “weeds” in the sward close to gardens and the spread of wind-borne seeds. This has been addressed by reducing the haymeadow regime area so that areas closer to houses are mown more often.

Flowering in 2012 has not been quite as good as in 2011 which is probably due to the poor summer.

If we were to run a similar exercise in the future would you have any advice/comments as to how it could be undertaken more effectively/efficiently:

Give more information to neighbouring residents early on, and publicise more widely e.g in local press and/or on site signage. Perhaps provide key residents with details of who to contact in SLC in case of problems or concerns.

Provide more training/support/written operating procedures for mowing staff. Try to give them a greater sense of ownership.

Organise warmer drier summers!

Do you have any other information you would like to submit:

See pictures below (from 2011 season).

If you have any pictures you feel may be useful to the pilot please attach them with your response.

Many thanks for your cooperation





From: amy palmer
Sent: 05 October 2012 10:19
To: Devaney, Gerry
Subject: Burnbraes wildflower grassland pilot
Hello Gerry,

As a local resident and member of the Burnbraes Park group, I would like to say how much I have appreciated the softer appearance of the park. It is a bit more like the old idyllic photos of the park I have seen with children playing in a brook in the countryside, (Burnbraes Park!).

Aside from the obvious biodiversity and environmental advantages, the visual appearance of the park has improved too. With weed free paths, neatly mown spaces and areas of managed meadow, (particularly along the edges of the stream and the steeper banks), forming an excellent example of combined management techniques. Long may this continue!

Kind regards
Amy Palmer

Bothwell Nature Trail

Wildflower Rich Grassland Pilot - 2012

Name: Brighter Bothwell Group/Area service: **Name of site:** Bothwell Nature Trail

Can you list as many positive aspects as you can regarding the Project and Pilot site:

This has been an opportunity to contribute further to biodiversity by providing more shelter/pollen/nectar for a wide range of insects, bees and butterflies in particular.

Enhancement of the visual/colour display on the wildflower meadow will benefit walkers/joggers/cyclists using the Nature Trail.

Working closely with The Organic Growers of Bothwell at the community garden has strengthened collaborative working for the benefit of the community.

This project is something both groups are extremely pleased to be involved with.

The volunteers at the community garden have demonstrated that they have the capacity to grow on large numbers of wildflower plug plants.

Working in partnership with SLC has developed and built on good working relationships.

Can you list as many negative aspects as you can regarding the Project and Pilot site:

None.

If we were to run a similar exercise in the future would you have any advice/comments as to how it could be undertaken more effectively/efficiently:

Bothwell Community Garden volunteers have grown four wildflower species from seed to small plug plant stage. Liaison with SLC has been very effective with excellent communication so far. Once plugs have been overwintered we will continue with the next stage of the project.

Do you have any other information you would like to submit:

Since Brighter Bothwell sowed the wildflower meadow in September 2004 there has been a huge increase in the use of the Nature Trail. We produced a booklet "Bothwell Nature Trail, a wildlife corridor", in 2005. Over 500 copies were given to Bothwell Primary School and St. Bride's PS Primary Schools to encourage use of the "outdoor classroom". Over the last couple of years SLC land services staff have instigated a proper wildflower rich grassland cutting regime i.e. cutting grass September/October, letting seed set and finally removing waste thus reducing the soil fertility. To safeguard Lanarkshire's biodiversity we would like to see wildflower meadows extended to all appropriate SLC maintained areas, road verges etc. Perhaps the introduction of a wildflower management training programme should be considered for Council employees. The introduction of wildflower meadows will assist the Council in meeting their sustainability targets set by the Scottish Government.

If you have any pictures you feel may be useful to the pilot please attach them with your response.

Many thanks for your cooperation

There are photographs of the development of the paths and wildflower meadows taken in 2004 if these are of any use. They are not digital but one member may have scanned copies.

Bothwell Road Central Reservation

From: walkers

Sent: 10 September 2012 16:11

To: Devaney, Gerry

Cc: Wylie, Lesley

Subject: poppies

Hi Gerry,

Just been to Montrose House for our cycling (Uddingston to Larkhall route) meeting. The traffic island wildflowers at the racecourse are looking terrific. I parked my bike in the new bike shelter next to all those electric cars - SLC are really ticking the sustainability boxes now!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
dennis

From: Smith, Pamela ED St Joseph's YLS Base

Sent: 06 September 2012 15:58

To: Devaney, Gerry

Hi. Are you responsible for the wild flower planting along bothwell road? Its looking really good!

From: Harkness, Robert
Sent: 05 October 2012 11:54
To: Devaney, Gerry
Cc: Madden, Michael
Subject: RE: Wildflowers on Bothwell Rd

I thought the wildflowers idea superb especially as the poppies were in the general area of the War Memorial if this was intentional then well thought out. If not well it's a happy coincidence. In general a great idea and should be extended elsewhere

Robert Harkness
Section Leader
Lease Management Team

Wildflower Rich Grassland Pilot - 2012

Name: Joy Anderson Group/Area service: Friends of Cambuslang Park

Name of site: Cambuslang Park

Can you list as many positive aspects as you can regarding the Project and Pilot site:

- Users of the park approached members of our group asking why the grass hadn't been cut: once it was explained to them that it was a wildflower meadow they were satisfied with the concept.
- Some users described the area as 'lovely'.
- Dog walkers said their dogs enjoyed running through the long grass.
- Local elected members were very supportive.

Can you list as many negative aspects as you can regarding the Project and Pilot site:

- Not enough wildflower plugs were planted to make a proper impact.
- It was felt that the plugs were not planted properly.
- Lack of communication within Land Services meant that the grass was cut in Spring before the plugs had a chance to bed in.

If we were to run a similar exercise in the future would you have any advice/comments as to how it could be undertaken more effectively/efficiently:

- From reading about wildflower meadows, it would appear that the approach taken in Cambuslang Park was not best practice.
- Although it may be more expensive to begin with, in the long run it would seem be better to clear the area first then plant seeds.
- It would seem that more training for all Land Services staff is required.
- More publicity going out to the public in advance of the programme.

Do you have any other information you would like to submit:

If you have any pictures you feel may be useful to the pilot please attach them with your response.

Many thanks for your cooperation

Glenlee Woods

Wildflower Rich Grassland Pilot - 2012

Name: John Freeman Group/Area service: FOUGW Name of site: Udston and Glenlee Woods

Can you list as many positive aspects as you can regarding the Project and Pilot site:

1. Easy access for the public.
2. Ideal for schools and nurseries for projects.
3. Good for all sorts of wildlife.
4. Gives the woods a focal point.

Can you list as many negative aspects as you can regarding the Project and Pilot site:

1. Paths getting overgrown.
2. Bridges and steps getting overgrown.
3. Council not living up to their promises etc, cutting grass and verges and weed killer on paths which are reducing their width.

If we were to run a similar exercise in the future would you have any advice/comments as to how it could be undertaken more effectively/efficiently:

Do you have any other information you would like to submit:

If you have any pictures you feel may be useful to the pilot please attach them with your response.

Many thanks for your cooperation

Wildflower Rich Grassland Pilot - 2012

Name: Louisa Maddison

Group/Area service:

Name of site: Glenlee Woods

Can you list as many positive aspects as you can regarding the Project and Pilot site:

- Benefit to wildlife of different type of grassland
- Great to see this type of project being trialled
- Community involvement – everyone keen on the project
- Scope for events/activities in the future e.g. planting events, looking at invertebrates on site

Can you list as many negative aspects as you can regarding the Project and Pilot site:

- The site edges were not mown as discussed – or at least not as frequently as expected
- Final cut was a bit late on
- Not many wildflowers on site

If we were to run a similar exercise in the future would you have any advice/comments as to how it could be undertaken more effectively/efficiently:

Sites such as this need more input e.g. adding plants as the natural diversity does not match what people would like to see i.e. lots of coloured flowers. I think it was a good idea to let the sites grow for a year in case anything interesting grew up but grass etc is always going to be abundant without intervention.

Do you have any other information you would like to submit:

Glad to see some of the “biobank” sites are being maintained due to this project e.g. Stonehouse bypass. Would like to see more of these original sites brought back to a good state. Would also like to see the project expand to more suitable areas around SLC e.g. road verges.

Wildflower Rich Grassland Pilot - 2012

Name: Jim McHugh **Group:** FOUGW **Name of site:** Glenlee Woods and Neilsland Woods

Can you list as many positive aspects as you can regarding the Project and Pilot site:

Good potential for both sites to encourage biodiversity. Also, other parts of the sites such as path margins could also be developed. They also provide a good “woodland experience” surrounding the grassland areas.

Both sites also provide an excellent opportunity for raising awareness of the importance of grassland meadows of whatever size not just to biodiversity but what this means in relation to the animal (especially insect and bird) life and to our environment generally.

Can you list as many negative aspects as you can regarding the Project and Pilot site:

A danger that they are not perceived by the public as attractive or “useful” parts of their environment and consideration must be given to this in any future development of the Project.

If we were to run a similar exercise in the future would you have any advice/comments as to how it could be undertaken more effectively/efficiently:

I felt that it was well-run and I learned something about the plants to be found in that restricted area. Identification sheets to have wider coverage, not just the flowers, but also the grasses and rushes. (They are grasslands after all!) Obviously mosses and fungi are not so prevalent or of interest to the public/participants but should receive more coverage.

Do you have any other information you would like to submit:

Some thought should be given to signage in the future – not just information boards at each site, but at the entrances too so that visitors are made aware of the existence of these special areas within the sites.

If you have any pictures you feel may be useful to the pilot please attach them with your response.

Many thanks for your cooperation

Castlebank Park

From: Sylvia Russell [sylvia_russell@btinternet.com]

Sent: 04 October 2012 09:52

To: Devaney, Gerry

Subject: Re: Wildflower Rich Grassland Pilot

Hi gerry

I think I responded to your earlier email but just in case I didn't the wild flower meadow which was planted along the driveway at Castlebank Park Lanark has been reasonably successful. Parts of it were beautiful with a colourful display but other parts only showed green growth and no flowers. Perhaps it will take another year to get properly established or perhaps bits will need to be reseeded. I was a bit worried to see that council workmen had strimmed it back before the flowers had died back and set seed!

I have received several complimentary comments about the display from regular dog walkers to the park so I certainly think it was a worthwhile project.

I have attached some photos for you.

Kind regards

Sylvia Russell

Neilsland Park

Wildflower Rich Grassland Pilot - 2012

Name: Margaret Clark

Group/Area service: Name of site: Neilsland Park

Can you list as many positive aspects as you can regarding the Project and Pilot site:

- 1) I appreciated the opportunity to attend the short course on wildflower meadows and also the invitation to see how you evaluated the sites on Wednesday.
- 2) The wildlife has probably benefited.

Can you list as many negative aspects as you can regarding the Project and Pilot site:

- 1) I hate to say it Gerry but I don't think that it has worked at Neilsland. I realise that the weather has been most unkind this year and the way the grass has been cut/ uncut hasn't helped either (it was difficult to see your original plan in there) but the park looks untidy and neglected and the majority of people who might want to use the park would be put off by the way it looks at the moment. A park like Neilsland needs to be appealing to people as well as wildlife.
- 2) The uncut area is just too much. There needs to be larger areas with short grass – in very wet weather such as we have had this summer long grass does not allow the ground to dry out.
- 3) Although we did see a few interesting plants on the survey (and I realise there were probably more to see earlier in the year) they were few and far between. It would take a good number of years for these few to spread naturally and look good, especially while the grass is so strong.

If we were to run a similar exercise in the future would you have any advice/comments as to how it could be undertaken more effectively/efficiently:

- 1) It's very important that Land Services get a clear message and understand what is required of them.
- 2) Concentrate everyone's efforts on smaller areas at first, try to win over the general public by making them look as good as possible, learn from these smaller patches and then expand to larger areas. Don't try to do everything the first year (even if that's what the bosses want, it's an unrealistic target – the meadows at the Olympic Park were 5 years in the making with a huge budget and top gardeners who presumably knew what they were doing – we're just learning as we go along!).
- 3) The ground at Neilsland is too rich and the grass is too strong. I doubt if seeding will be very successful unless something is done to address this. Even plug plants would probably struggle at the moment.
- 4) The ground at Neilsland tends to be boggy making grass cutting difficult. The tyres of the tractors used at present churn up the ground very badly and leave an awful mess after a

spell of wet weather. It would be much better if the council could be persuaded to invest in some smaller mowers to ride on which would be less destructive.

- 5) Even one path of short grass winding through the middle of the longer grass and flowers would tempt people to wander through and look more closely at whatever flowers, bees, butterflies etc. might be there.

Do you have any other information you would like to submit:

On a more optimistic note, on my visit to Cambuslang Park on Monday, although the interesting plants were rather few and far between, I do think the 2 existing areas there can be made to work as wildflower meadows with a bit of effort. There is enough short grass round about to allow folk to do their own thing and the uncut areas are clearly defined. The higher area in particular looks to me to have potential. Sorry if my comments seem awful negative but feel I have to be honest. I really would like to see this project succeed!

If you have any pictures you feel may be useful to the pilot please attach them with your response.

Many thanks for your cooperation

Stonehouse Bypass

Wildflower Rich Grassland Pilot - 2012

Name: **John Young** Group/Area service: **Development Trust and Brighter Village Group**

Name of site: **Stonehouse Bypass**

Can you list as many positive aspects as you can regarding the Project and Pilot site:

Yes, some works have already been carried out by the Brighter Village Group some years past to plant wild flowers to improve the visual appearance of the bypass. The bypass also retains a great number of wild flower species and fungi which naturally without planting again greatly improving the view for residents and passing traffic. This has encouraged awareness of the groups activities and participation in the groups work to improve the visual image of the village and biodiversity of the flora and fauna locally. This work has been carried out utilising other local groups such as schools and uniformed groups too. The potential to engage school children and the community in understanding the value of such pilots can not be under-estimated. That said folks need to feel 'equal' partners in such an enterprise or they will just feel the project is being enforced by big brother and long term would be bound to fail.

Can you list as many negative aspects as you can regarding the Project and Pilot site:

Lack of consultation with local groups has led to some works being destroyed by mowing. A scheme needs to be drawn up to identify locally maintained areas and areas where the pilot will have greatest impact with limited resources (local volunteers). Some people will see this as simply a cost cutting exercise and for some councillors this is indeed the case (some officers too). For me the project has the potential to be a win win but only if carefully considered with key supporters and a positive outlook on how to take the project forward.

If we were to run a similar exercise in the future would you have any advice/comments as to how it could be undertaken more effectively/efficiently:

Yes....speak to communities first before coming to them with a plan...come to us with an idea and work up the plan together!

Do you have any other information you would like to submit:

General information of local wildlife attached for your information.

If you have any pictures you feel may be useful to the pilot please attach them with your response.

Many thanks for your cooperation

Ground Service Feedback.

Biggar Burn Braes Park

Wildflower Rich Grassland Pilot - 2012

Name: Jim Robertson Group/Area service: SLC Land Services Name of site: Biggar Burnbraes

Can you list as many positive aspects as you can regarding the Project and Pilot site:

Provided a safer system of work for Employees, R.E.

One off cut and rake off as opposed to mowing the grass every fortnight

Can you list as many negative aspects as you can regarding the Project and Pilot site:

Residents in Rowhead Terrace not very happy as banking is not being cut fortnightly

SLC Staff caught up in the middle of two groups arguing.

If we were to run a similar exercise in the future would you have any advice/comments as to how it could be undertaken more effectively/efficiently:

Please involve the whole community before proceeding

Do you have any other information you would like to submit:

No

If you have any pictures you feel may be useful to the pilot please attach them with your response.

Many thanks for your cooperation

Bothwell Road Central Reservation

From: Stewart, Iain
Sent: 19 September 2012 10:07
To: Devaney, Gerry
Cc: Reid, Colin W; Kelly, Stephen G; Carr, Lynn; Barclay, Alan
Subject: RE: Wildflower Rich Grassland Pilot
Hi Gerry,

Thank you for your email

I think I have said enough on the subject of wildflower rich grassland, they have their place in some amenities but not all

I stand by my previous comments as to the location of the Bothwell Road central reservations are the wrong choice for such an amenity, Simply because the very location of the wild flower are slap bang in the middle of a busy dual carriageway and access for any maintenance activity is limited and costly.

With this in mind you will have to determine whether you actually wish to have this years flowers raked off and taken off site once they have died off. This process could involve two separate road closures,

1} to trim flower heads, 50 x central reservation compartment beds (do you wish seed heads to naturalise into soil compartments for germination next year?)

If so,

2} would be a separate closure to remove arisings and vegetation once seeds have naturalised.

What do you want your operations section to do? And when?

Whilst the wildflower mix may well be an attractive colourful amenity to the Bothwell Road at present I am still fearful that once the grass, weeds and other vegetation takes hold, there could be a worry that future maintenance would become a problem in respect of heavy grass cutting/Strimming and litter picking not forgetting the problems that may be presented to motorist with regards to sight lines, debris etc.

There may also be wild flower deaths to certain varieties due to the application of salt to the busy carriageway in the ensuing years

Only time will tell

Let us know how you wish to proceed for this year's maintenance? Upon which we will have to engage the services of our colleagues in Roads and Transportation for road closure facilities.

Regards

Iain Stewart
Grounds Services Officer
Facilities, Fleet & Grounds Services

Neilsland Park

From: Currie, Iain COMM Forrest Street
Sent: 18 September 2012 14:07

To: Devaney, Gerry

Subject: RE: Wildflower Rich Grassland Pilot

Thanks Gerry,

We had a look at the Neilsland Park site today, unfortunately the ground at the moment is waterlogged so we can't have the area cut as yet, I'll let you know when things improve so you can get your photo opportunity.

In terms of comments please see the following.

The site lends itself to this type of project however in hindsight we should have given greater thought to ground conditions and the ability to carry out maintenance especially given the changing climate.

We have received no complaints in relation to the reduced maintenance of the site.

I am disappointed by the lack of wild flower on show, is it possible for you to introduce additional planting for the site (taking into account the ground condition) either in the form of plug planting or seed planting.

We have introduced these areas however I'm not sure what we have done to promote or inform members of the public. I know that user groups and friends of groups have been involved but I'm not aware of wider promotion of what we are doing either through media or information boards.

Just some thoughts

Regards

Iain

From: Reid, Colin W

Sent: 17 September 2012 13:44

To: Devaney, Gerry

Subject: RE: Wildflower Rich Grassland Pilot

Hi Gerry

The guys will programme this in, my main comment would be in relation to the areas that we stopped maintaining, whilst there was some signs of wildflowers I would say they were not as successful as the areas that were sown, so there may be a need to introduce some wildflowers into these areas.

Cheers

Colin Reid

Grounds Services Adviser

Facilities, Fleet and Grounds Services

From: Madden, Michael

Sent: 11 October 2012 18:17

To: Devaney, Gerry

Subject: RE: Wildflowers on Bothwell Rd

Gerry,

The wildflowers are absolutely fantastic as I mentioned when we met.

What a great idea for a busy dual carriageway.

I use this road regularly and find on each occasion my attention is drawn to the flowers – quite a soothing effect especially if you are in a queue!

Nature at its best despite the obvious pollution and the like from road traffic.

The predominant red colour is brilliant.

The flowers also appear to be very long lasting as if they had always been there.

My only disappointment is that the planting is not denser and on some parts of the road there are bare areas - possibly due to soil conditions?
An excellent addition to the urban landscape. Keep planting.

All the best. Kind regards.

Mike.

Michael Madden
Estates Surveyor
Housing & Technical Resources.

From: Richmond, Julie
Sent: 23 August 2012 11:38
To: Devaney, Gerry
Subject: Wildflowers

Hi Gerry

I see your wildflowers are doing great on Bothwell Road!! They look great and much better than it looked before – well done for your perseverance. The more areas like this the better is what I think!

Thanks
Julie

Julie Richmond
Carbon Management Development Officer

Gerry

See below a positive response to your wildflower initiative on the Bothwell Road. I am sure you had it in your mind when you planned the project that it would co-inside with remembrance day!!!

Simon Pilpel
Landscape and Access Development Manager Facilities, Fleet and Ground Services
Community and Enterprise Resources

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Hamilton
Sent: 30 October 2012 12:30
To: Pilpel, Simon
Subject: poppies

Hi Simon

Sorry to bother you but I'd be grateful if you could either pass on a message to the relevant Council contact, or let me know who I should contact.
Basically I just wanted to congratulate those people involved in growing the strip of poppies in the central reservation on the B7071 between Bothwell and Hamilton town centre. The flowers add a splash of colour as well as providing a timely reminder of our history, and show what can be done with a bit of imagination.

Hope this is OK

Mark

Mark Hamilton Landscape Services

“Many congratulations on the wild flower display in the central reservation of Bothwell Road. It was a joy to drive down and see the ribbon of red poppies. It was much talked

about and greatly appreciated by pollinating insects and public alike.” Wilma S Bolton,
Hamilton