

PLYMOUTH PLAN FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

2025-2030

Growth, health, and economy
over the next five years.

WHAT IS THE PLAN FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE?

This plan outlines how we will place nature at the heart of our city's identity, growth, health, and economy over the next five years.

Plymouth aims to be locally celebrated and globally recognised as a nature rich ocean city with nature at its heart. We want everyone to enjoy, be part of, and feel connected to our incredible nature spaces.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Plymouth is an amazing city where nature thrives. With over 40 per cent green space, three National Landscapes, and the UK's first National Marine Park, we have the ability to lead the way in nature recovery, health equity, and climate resilience.

These nature spaces include parks, nature reserves, neighbourhood open spaces, verges, play areas, sports pitches, allotments, cemeteries, streams, ponds, rivers, street trees, woodlands and grassy areas. At sea this includes the open marine environment with all of the habitats and species that exist within and beneath, as well as the estuaries, mudflats, salt marsh, cliffs and rocky shore.

But we face challenges:

- The climate crisis is driving the loss of wildlife and wildlife homes. The Wildlife Trusts, 2022
- Not everyone can access nature spaces
- Inequalities in physical and mental health around the city
- The climate crisis is creating risks and extreme weather events, including flooding and drought

We know from evidence that nature can address these challenges - supporting better health, resilient facilities, and community wellbeing.

WHAT WE HEARD

To shape the plan, we listened to over 650 residents and stakeholders' voices. We believe the plan will only work if we work together. From a 'Summer of Nature' to a number of focus groups, our communities helped to shape the plan. We listened to lots of different ideas, concerns, and suggestions, and we have made sure that they are at the heart of this plan.



WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?



A NATURE RICH OCEAN CITY

A city buzzing with nature

We will create better and more joined up nature spaces on land and in the sea.

Key actions:

- Work with communities to co-design and deliver neighbourhood level wildlife enhancements
- Plant 1,000 individual street trees by 2030; improve 400ha of nature space
- Achieve ‘moderate/good’ condition in 90 per cent of key nature sites



A PLAYFUL, ACTIVE AND HEALTHY CITY

Where everyone can access quality natural spaces

We will make sure that everyone lives within a 400 metre walk of quality natural space, using nature to improve public health and wellbeing.

Key actions:

- Embed nature into public health and care strategies
- Improve facilities and access to parks and marine spaces
- Expand ecotherapy, social prescribing, and wellbeing hubs



INCLUSIVE NATURE SPACES

Meeting the needs of people by supporting activity programmes

We will co-design, invest in and co-manage spaces that are welcoming and accessible to all, addressing inequalities in provision and quality.

Key actions:

- Support inclusive design and neighbourhood masterplans
- Enhance physical and digital platforms to connect communities
- Fund community-led nature enterprises and activities



A NATURE-CONNECTED AND EMPOWERED CITY

Empowering residents to engage in decision making

We will empower communities to lead, co-design, and co-steward nature initiatives, recognising local expertise, and creating green career pathways.

Key actions:

- Invest in volunteering, training, and youth leadership
- Apply a Nature Connectedness approach to engagement, supporting people to feel close to and a part of nature
- Launch a cross-sector Plan for Nature Steering Group



AN INNOVATIVE INVESTMENT CITY

Nature innovation as part of a sustainable city economy

We will work with nature to bring money into the city, create jobs, and drive enterprise.

Key actions:

- Raise £50m by 2030 through green finance and partnerships
- Expand Ocean City Nature and habitat banking
- Publish Plymouth’s first Natural Capital Investment Prospectus

HOW WE WILL DELIVER

Partnership working

across sectors, communities, and institutions

Innovative funding

including biodiversity net gain and social investment

Robust governance

through a new cross-sector Steering Group

Transparent monitoring

using shared data, citizen science, and academic insight

Inclusive communication

that inspires trust and involvement citywide



A CALL TO ACTION

This is more than an environmental strategy; it is a shared commitment to a just, resilient, and vibrant future. It will only succeed if we all play our part, from businesses and schools to residents, funders, and national partners. Together, we can make Plymouth a leading Nature City where people and wildlife flourish, and where nature is valued, protected, and celebrated by all.