

Wormwood Scrubs Annual Family Fun Day sees local residents get close to nature

Over 500 people enjoyed the Wormwood Scrubs Annual Family Fun Day at Hammersmith & Fulham's largest nature reserve, known as the Scrubs. Locals came along to celebrate the nature reserve and enjoy the new playground that was officially opened by Cllr Adronie Alford, deputy Mayor of Hammersmith & Fulham on 10 April 2010.

The event, organised by Groundwork London together with Hammersmith & Fulham Council, was an opportunity for the community to get together and enjoy activities taking place at the local nature reserve within the park. At the free event, people had a go at conservation work, came face to face with farm animals at the mobile farm and petting zoo and tried other exciting environmental activities including recycling workshops and a forest school demonstration, all under the backdrop of blossoming woodlands, spring flowers and birdsong.

Groundwork London has been involved in nature conservation in west London since 2002 and played an integral role in bringing about the designation of a Local Nature Reserve within Wormwood Scrubs Park. Since then, many new opportunities have opened up for the local community to get involved and engage with London's 'wild side' first-hand.

Currently, Groundwork London's two conservation officers run volunteering groups to encourage local residents, schools and colleges to appreciate wildlife in their local green spaces across west London. The groups enable people to take positive action and improve biodiversity and spaces for wildlife by making physical improvements to the park. These regular volunteer sessions allow local people to give something back to their community by getting their hands dirty. So far this has led to thousands of native trees being planted, selective scrub-land being cleared, paths being created and the wildflower meadows sown. In addition to the added aesthetic value, they also form new habitats for a myriad of birds, insects and other species as well as creating foraging routes for endangered bats.

Paul Clay, Senior Nature Conservation Officer at Groundwork London said: "It is so rewarding to see so many local people using the scrubs and really enjoying themselves. We run practical conservation sessions for volunteers that include tree planting, hedge laying, surveying for a range of species and much more, so please contact us to find out how to get involved. "