

Our Past, Our Future

Working together for the New Forest

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Wild play

Lead Partner * and others Involved

*New Forest National Park Authority
 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
 National Trust
 Forestry Commission

Who will Benefit

Children
 Schools
 Landowners
 Land managers
 Parish Council
 Local communities



Building dens in the New Forest

Project Summary

The NFNPA would like to create a number of wild-play areas for children. Wild-play areas are areas specifically set aside to allow children to enjoy the outside. They may have additional attractions such as hollow logs or rough climbing areas. In essence they should offer children an opportunity to enjoy the outside in a safe but not risk free environment. The Wild play Project Officer will develop permanent wild play sites, targeted in key sites, including Holbury Woods and Lepe Country Park (Hampshire County Council). Work will continue during the project to identify additional potential sites. The project officer will work with local communities to raise the profile of Wild play within local communities and support the development of local Wild play Champions to assist with the long-term sustainability of the sites.

Outputs/Outcomes

- A toolkit will be produced for volunteers to set up wild play opportunities in their area.
- Children will be better engaged with the environment and more children will play in the outdoors through the establishment of wild play sites and pop up sites
- Eight wild play events and 2 workshops will be held

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- Twelve volunteer champions and ambassadors will be recruited to support wild play sites
- People will reconnect with nature and be more confident and more appreciative of the natural environment and its benefits for health and wellbeing.
- High quality wild play areas will be an asset to local communities improving quality of life and providing facilities for young people
- Young people will have greater contact with the natural world
- Opportunities for volunteers to help build and promote the wild play areas.

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Volunteers

Local volunteers will help with the development of Wild play sites and will help the sites to become sustainable by assisting in their day to day running. Volunteers will run events at new Wild play sites and take Wild play to the community

Training

Training will be provided in the required techniques and practical skills will allow volunteers to engage the community and the parents and children that use the sites.

Links with other Our Past, Our Future Projects

| Project linked to: | Nature of Relationship: |
|--------------------|--|
| Working Woodlands | Some privately owned woodlands may provide opportunities for Wild play sites. Products created by woodland management could provide material for wild play sites |
| Foxbury | The work at this site will include the creation of one of the Wild play areas |

Longer term legacy

The Wild play Champions will take the project forward after the initial four year period, helping to maintain and promote their Wild play site. A toolkit produced by the project officer will provide guidance and advice to landowners wishing to create Wild play areas in future. Landowners will take responsibility for maintaining the spaces and access. The community will hopefully be inspired by the idea of Wild play and recognise the value of a safe play area that doesn't need extensive maintenance. It is hoped that we will see a change in attitude among New Forest residents towards wild play compared with survey results at the beginning of the project.

Contact Details

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For general enquiries contact the New Forest National Park Authority as the lead partner on 01590 646604 or email ourpast.ourfuture@newforestnpa.gov.uk