



Funded by



Severn Trent Community Funding £9856

Project Closed 11/12/20

Final Report

Sustainable Life
Birmingham





Introduction

Severn Trent Water funded our project for Ten Acres Conservation and without whom none of this would have been possible. Our aim was to transform the derelict Ten Acres heritage woodland site, open up the space and make it safe for public use again. We agreed with the local council that if we were able to restore the original pathway through the site they would agree to maintain it in the future to ensure it does not become overgrown again.

We worked in conjunction with the BOSF and Park Rangers and our partners the Friends of Ten Acres who look after the site as a whole.

Our work focused on the derelict side of the river in ten acres and we were mindful to ensure conservation and habitat was at the forefront of our work.





Ten Acres Conservation

This project was a privilege to be involved in. We feel that the project was a resounding success and residents will now be able to enjoy and engage with the site for years to come. Thanks to Severn Trent Water we have the necessary equipment to continue management of the site, a strong base of 60 volunteers who regularly engage with the site and plans for the future of the site and the woodland management of the site.

At the end of this year we also held a snowflake trail where local residents could visit the site and take a snowflake home with them. This was a perfect way of introducing residents to the new area in a covid safe way. This also enabled us to record the number of visitors to the site for this trail (by counting snowflakes remaining). This should be considered a minimum number as we are unable to record all the other visits to the site such as dog walkers.

The Statistics

- * 427 volunteering hours logged throughout this project
- * 30 volunteering sessions on site
- * 60 volunteers
- * 190 Families/children visited the site for the snowflake trail.





Woodland Management Work

We held 30 volunteering sessions on site to manage the woodland and the pathway. Due to covid restrictions this had to be managed by pre-bookings only with a limit of 6 volunteers at a time. We therefore split the day into two sessions. We found we had a great response from local residents wishing to volunteer with us, and always had a waiting list for work days. There is a huge demand for volunteering in our local area due to lockdown restrictions, redundancies, working from home and mental health needs.



View more photos on www.tenacresconservation.co.uk



Before and After

We have successfully transformed the woodland from a dark and overgrown tangle to an open, light and walkable woodland. Huge sections previously overtaken by brambles have been cleared and are walkable again. The path that was previously hidden beneath brambles has been restored and widened. While the area itself still suffers from flooding in the winter months, we have long term planting plans in place to help manage this including re-establishing coppiced trees along the river banks to improve stability.

Before our presence the woodland was not only derelict, but a perfect hiding place for substance mis-use. One of the key problems with working on some sections of the woodland was the discovery of piles of sharps. These areas had to be sectioned off with hazard tape and the EHA informed. Some areas had as many as 50 needles present and exposed. Opening up these areas to make them more accessible and visible has decreased the likelihood of substance misuse significantly and the woodland is becoming a much safer place to venture.

Visit www.tenacresconservation.co.uk
for a full view of our progress and photographs



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Before, the path is overgrown and brambles had to be cut back to get through.



After
The original path is revealed and you can walk through here easily now.





Conservation

Our woodland management team always put conservation and protection of native species at the forefront of their work. The woodland management plan developed and followed includes increasing light to the lower levels, removing fertility to promote native species and better diversity, removing invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam, managing overactive species such as brambles that reduce habitat and prevent natural woodland species from thriving, and ensuring new habitats such as dead wood piles and deadhedge wildlife corridors. We are also currently talking to B37/Tribal who will be providing us with a range of bat boxes, bird boxes and owl boxes to install in the woodland area.

We have been logging birds, butterflies, bugs, trees and plants throughout the project and have noted an increase of diversity of native species. We were also excited to see signs of all three levels of natural woodland succession on site and have managed this accordingly.



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Snowflake Trail

On december 7th we placed over 200 snowflakes along the ten acres conservation area pathway. We ensured these snowflakes were wooden with natural string fibres so that if any became damaged and lost they would compost down and not cause any significant pollution to the site.

We advertised the trail for families in the local area as a covid safe way of engaging with the site and providing an activity for those struggling indoors this winter season. We also allowed families to take a snowflake home with them after their visit for thier xmas tree at home and we were delighted with the response to this.

At least 190 families/children visited our snowflake trail and took a snowflake home with them. We also made a video of the trail for those that could not get outside and visit. The video can be viewed here:

<https://tenacresconservation.co.uk/snowflake-trail-2020/>



Final Volunteering Day

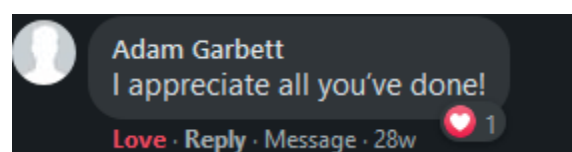
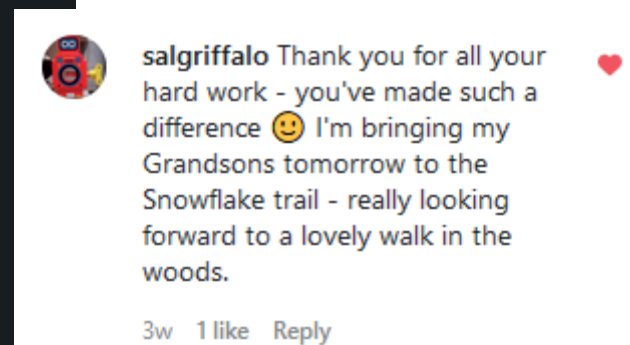
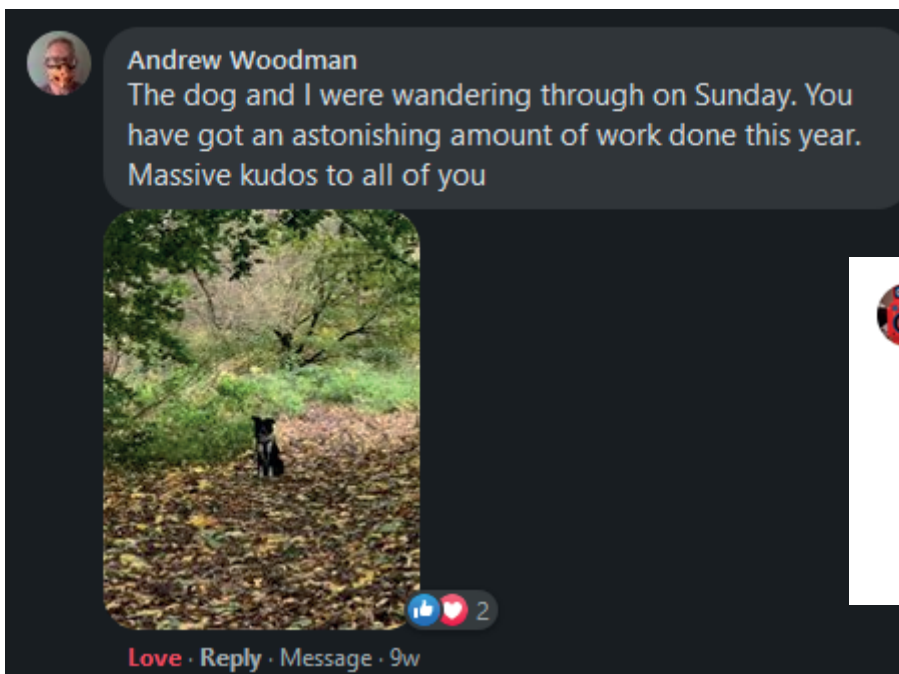
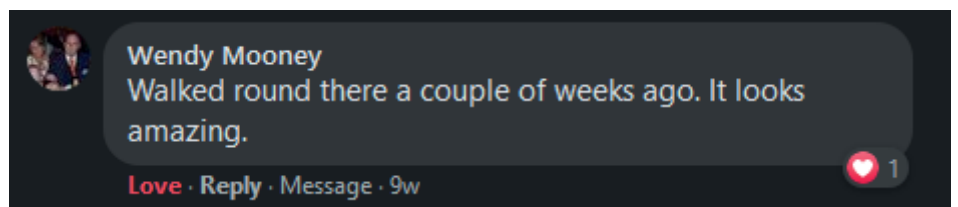
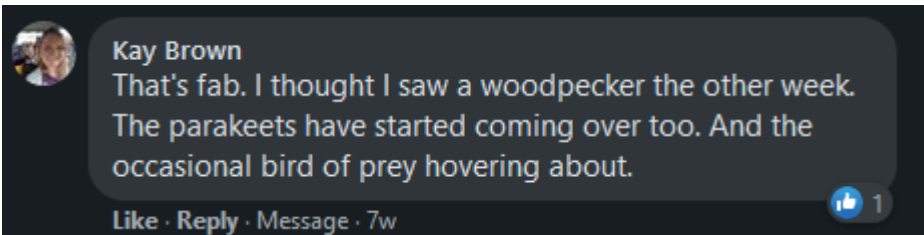
At the end of the year we also held a special fire and feast day for the volunteers. We had a fire in the woods in the designated camp and cooked them a hot meal. We also handed out a few xmas treats to say thank you to our most regular volunteers for all their hard work this year.

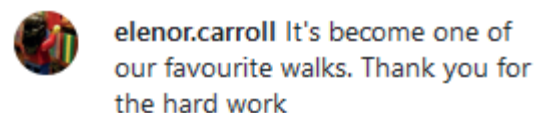
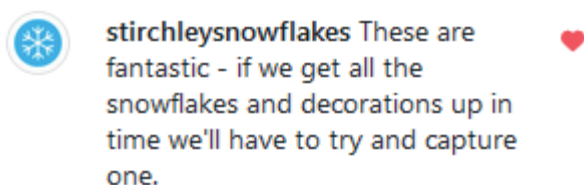
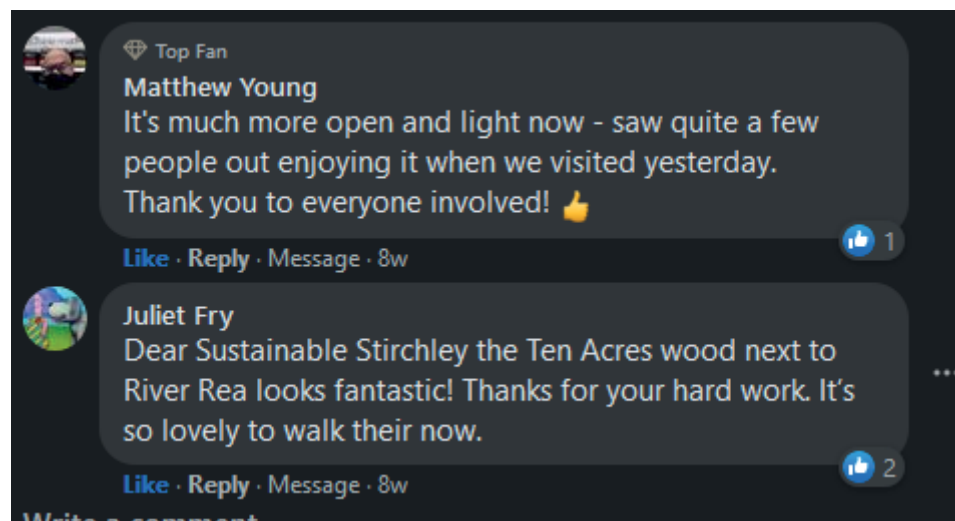
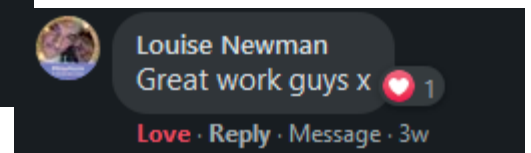
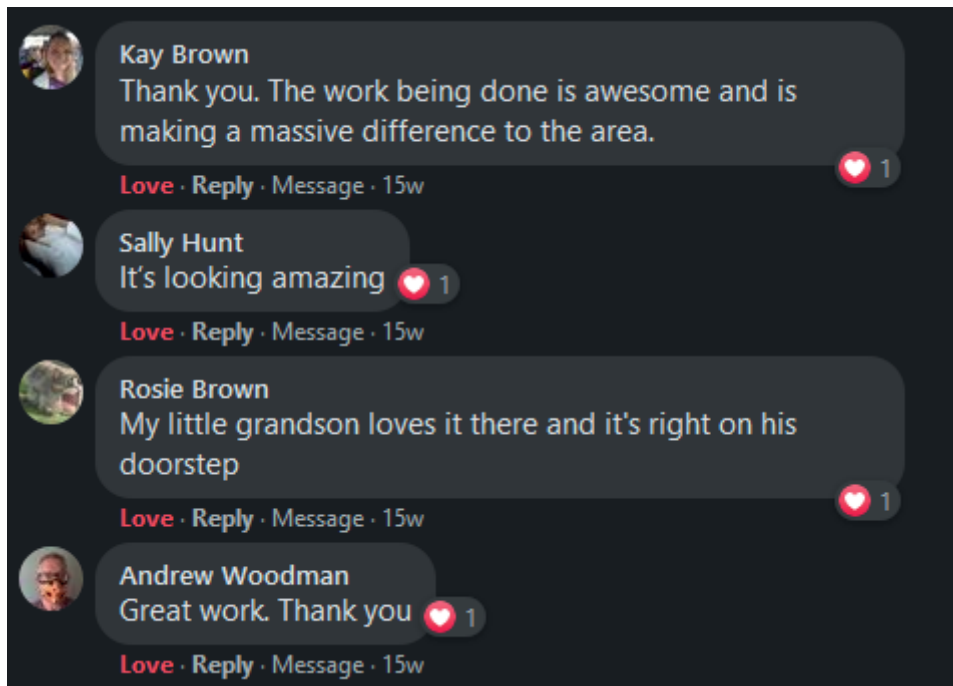




Feedback & Social Media

Here is just a bit of what we found on our social media pages.







J. M. Wall @Cem_Res · 3 Dec 2020

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Replying to @gumkenth

I'm really looking forward to it! Our partners @SusLifeUK had the idea for another project at Ten Acres in Stirchley so there are 2 places to see Snowflakes in Birmingham this Christmas



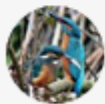
Key Hill Cemetery Snowflake Trail

Wrap up warm and take a wintery walk around Key Hill with your family or bubble, hunting for snowflak...

cemeteries.jewelleryquarter.net



2



Zomerset @jjzomerset · 2 Dec 2020

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@WTBBC @SusLifeUK 2nd River Rea Kingfisher today at Ten Acres, back on the same old bend. 2 Herons. Great!



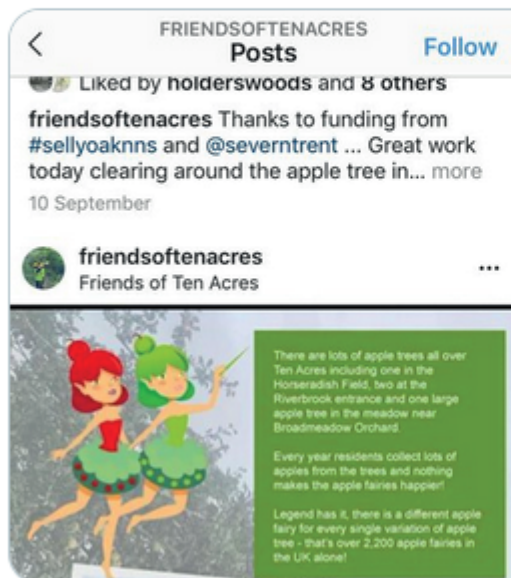
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Peoples Park Friends @cannonhillpark · 18 Sep 2020

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Following @HoldersWoods Conservation clean-up around trees and regeneration of #ReaValleyWoodland with new planting, the @Instagram @FriendsofTenAcres Stirchley have @severntrent and @SellyOakNNS funds for @SusLifeUK @fruitnutvillage 2020 volunteers project



Thank you!

SEVERN

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WATER