

Friends of Marconi Ponds

Local Nature Reserve

The Friends of Marconi Ponds was formed to develop the Nature Reserve and we hope as many people as possible will be involved with the project.

This is your chance to help shape the Nature Reserve on your doorstep.

You can help in different ways ranging from practical conservation, to recording the plants and animals on site or help promote and manage the project as part of the Friends group.

It doesn't matter if you're young or more mature, we especially welcome families but under 16's must come with an adult.



Friends supported by:



M&G Investments



Marconi Ponds is a local green space of natural beauty and interest situated in the centre of Chelmsford.

The ponds were originally created by Cromptons for industrial use and following Marconi's closure were left untouched for several years.

There are three habitats on site: grassland, woodland and two ponds. These habitats provide space in an urban area for a variety of wildlife.

Our overall aims are to improve the area for wildlife and encourage the local community to enjoy the site for recreation and learning.

www.marconiponds.co.uk

Visit our Facebook page

Contact

parks.volunteers@chelmsford.gov.uk

Or Elgan Adlard on 07850907279



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Volunteer Programme

2020/2021



Marconi Ponds Nature Reserve Practical Sessions

If you would like to **come and have a look around the Nature Reserve** or even lend a hand, we meet on the **3rd Saturday of each month from 1:30 – 3:30pm** (not August and December).

If you're volunteering, it's best to wear strong footwear and suitable clothes for working outdoors.

You don't need any special skills and we provide the tools. We always finish with **refreshments** - hot and cold drinks and biscuits.

Activities on the plan may change, but we carry out maintenance jobs as well as having a bigger project on the go, it depends on how many people turn up on the day and the weather conditions. **We always have a variety of tasks**, some lighter jobs as well as more strenuous tasks, so you can choose what you would like to do.

We welcome all ages, but ask that **under 16's come with an adult**.

We welcome visits from community groups of all ages and interests.

Contact: parks.volunteers@chelmsford.gov.uk or Elgan Adlard on 07850 907279

Date	Time	Activity
Sept 20	13.30-15.30	Cut and rake Viaduct Meadow. cycle path edge and pond meadow Remove golden rod as required by pulling up. Ensure all footpaths are clear from overhanging vegetation. Weave in top of the willow dome and cut off any excess growth. Litter pick.
Oct 20	13.30-15.30	Continue with September tasks if not completed. Ensure paths are clear. Litter pick. Annual cut and clearance of grassland areas continued. Removal of ivy from grassland areas. Hibernaculum creation.
Nov 20 cancelled	13.30-15.30	
Sat 12th Dec 20	10:00-12:00	Continue work from October.
Sat 16th Jan 21	13.30-15.30	Coppice Hazel near entrance and 2 Hawthorn stands along main path. Cut and dig out brambles from bramble bank. Carry out a thorough litter pick now vegetation has died back. Maintain hedge to a minimum height of 1.2m and plant up gaps where required. Remove redundant tree guards.
Sat 20th Feb 21	13.30-15.30	Continue with coppicing work from January. Clear pathways encourage people into the site to see the wildlife. Plant up area close to first 2 activity trails activities with native species. Begin work laying the hedge along the railway embankment. Willow tunnel maintenance. Litter pick.
Thurs 11th March 21	19.30-21.00	Annual General Meeting at Parks Depot, Waterhouse Lane, with speaker (TBC) and refreshments.
Sat 20th March 21	13.30-15.30	Continue work from February. Control brambles along the cycle way. Ensure any coppicing works have been completed and all the paths and walkways are clear. Coppice overhanging trees next to pond 2.
Sat 17th April 21	13.30-15.30	Cut and clear nettles along main path to encourage wild flowers to grow. Surface main path with road plannings where required. Weed wildflower areas to reduce dominant species. Ensure all walkways are clear for Open Day. Collect materials and build hibernaculum. Litter pick.
Sat 15th May 21	13.00-16.00	OPEN DAY -Pond Dipping, habitat making, face painting, photo competition, kid's quiz, refreshments and more exciting things – FREE, donations are welcome!
Sat 19th June 21	13.30-15.30	Continue work from April. Ensure paths are clear, remove vegetation along hedge next to pond. Weed planted tree areas . Remove invasive/competitive species from meadow areas. Hibernaculum creation.
Sat 17th July 21	13.30-15.30	Continue to ensure the grassland is open by cutting and removing unwanted plants and shrubs. Cut area along the side of the main cycle track. Ensure footpaths are free from brambles and nettles. Litter pick.
		No Practical Session in August