

RANGER REPORT October – December 2023

Looking Back

		Volunteering	Activity	Educational/Conservation	External
Date	Event	Outcome			
09/10/23 - 12/10/23	Just One Tree Week	Took CEC out into the Country Park. Discussed the importance of trees to our Country Park and town. Event was enjoyed and engaged with lots of questions being asked. As well as my newly appointed role by students who have seen me since out and about as 'The Tree Guy'.			
24/10/23 – 31/10/23	Witch Hunt	Scavenger Hunt in half term. We had Witch-Hunters claiming their prizes just hours after setting up. Prizes were Halloween wristbands.			
24/10/23	Witch Hats and Opinion Tree	Set up an activity to coincide with the Consultation Group at Younghayes. Children could decorate their own Witch/ Wizard hat with leaves and seeds collected from the Country Park. Set up a big tree out of Cardboard for the public to stick their opinions on the Country Park and what they would like to see done with it. All opinions were welcomed, the results had more than the Consultation Group. Most opinions/thoughts were subjects that the Council are already aware of/ planning e.g., more bins, shelters, distance markers.			
29/10/23	Stargazers	Organised by the SpaceExe group. A free stargazing session and talk in the Country Park			
1/11/23	Leat/ Pond clearing	Vegetation removal from the end of the leat by the train station leading to Basin 1A. Alongside the volunteers we cleared a large area and were able to open the stream out into a pond again free of overgrown vegetation. Fish and frogs were seen entering once we opened the area up.			
15/11/23	Minibeast Lesson	X2 practical lessons with CEC year 2's in the Country Park. The students have been learning about Microhabitats and Minibeasts, during the lesson we discussed what minibeasts we have in the Country Park, where we might find them, why we need them and what we can do to help conserve them.			
15/11/23	St Thomas Community Garden	St Thomas held a Community Garden event which was a great opportunity for me to see how a functioning, developed Community Garden works and discuss ideas with those that were			

		involved. The meeting was run by their lead volunteer, they discussed funding, how the local coffee shop helps with compost, food is distributed and available to everyone. Acquiring tools, storage and resources.
17/11/23	Tree Planting	First planting session of the season. Planted a connecting hedgerow behind basin 1A (near the dog park) to connect existing hedges and expand the wildlife corridor. Was a successful session with 2 new volunteers attending.
23/11/23	St Martins School	Met with the lead of the Forestry School and discussed possible future events such as tree planting, planter building and Country Park visits
24/11/23	Christmas Light Turn On	Wooden Christmas decorations were provided for children to decorate/ colour in and take home.
26/11/23	Tree Planting	Second session: Planting along the new trainline fencing.
02/12/23	Free Tree Hub	Devon Wildlife Trusts, Saving Devons Treescape scheme offers members of the public to collect free trees to plant in their gardens. Over 300 trees were provided.
Grants		
Maintenance		
20/11/23	Eon	Trees have been planted either side of the newly installed Nature Reserve bridge and fence lines hedges have been planted where they gained access. The ground remediation on the Nature Reserve side has failed and caused the ground to waterlog further. Any remediation of this would require trenching and removing at least a metre of the stream bank which would result in a higher risk of the bank bursting during high water levels. Because of this, it has been agreed that Eon will extend the newly installed gravel path to the raised ground before the maintenance gate on the southwest side on London Road. This will not be complete until the ground has dried to prevent further deterioration and damage. Realistically looking at Spring unless there is an extended cold period over winter causing the ground to harden.

Looking Forward

		Volunteering	Activity	Educational/Conservation	External
Date	Event	Outcome			
16/12/23	Devon Loves Dogs – Waggy Walks	Devon Love Dogs will be co-hosting an event in the Country Park to raise awareness of responsible dog ownership.			

Proposed Volunteering		
Date	Event	Outcome
13/10/23	Sapling relocation	Removing and replanting from undesired locations to new areas.
20/10/23	Hedgehog hibernation Boxes	Building of boxes for winter to support population survival.
03/11/23	Basin clearing	Silt & Litter removal from our basins to ensure they work effectively.
10/11/23	Willow Fencing	Patching up hedgerows to support growth and prevent further damage.
17/11/23	Bird Box cleaning	Clearing & Cleaning existing birdboxes in the CP for new season.
<i>November-March</i>	Tree Planting	Varying events throughout Tree Planting season.
1/12/23	Citizen Science-River Trust	(Need to sign up, monthly event).
15/12/23	Bat box Building	Building more bat boxes for the next season.

