



Spring 2025

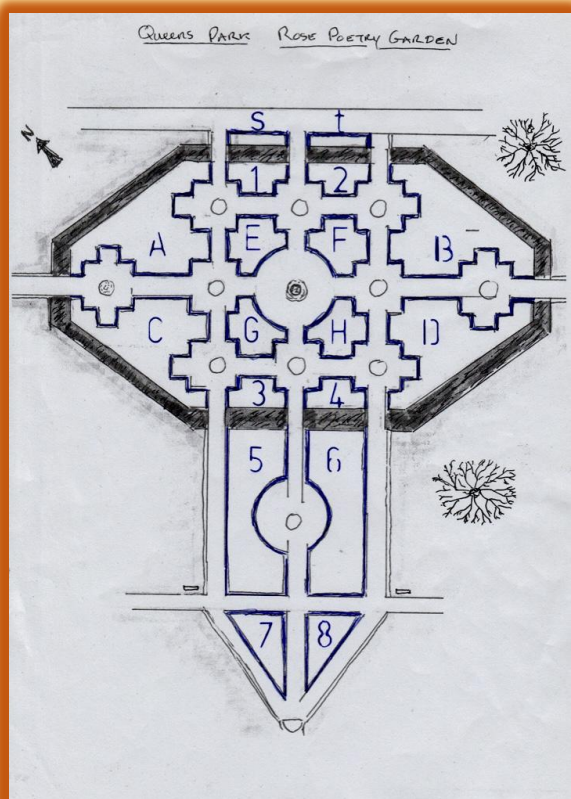
Welcome to our Spring newsletter. In it we share plans for the future of the Scottish Poetry Rose Garden and introduce our biodiversity programme.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sun 27th April 10 – 4pm – Nature Record 'Bioblitz' iNaturalist City Nature Challenge
- Sat 3rd May GARDENING IN ROSE GARDEN 10 – 12
- Sun 4th May 4.30 am DAWN CHORUS BIRD WALK
(booking essential)
- Sun May 11th & May 25th Biodiversity Recording meet by Nature Pond @ 10am
- Sun May 18th GARDENING IN ROSE GARDEN 2 – 4pm
- Sun Jun 8th & Jun 22nd Biodiversity Recording meet by Nature Pond @ 10 am

SCOTTISH POETRY ROSE GARDEN PLANS



The Scottish Poetry Rose Garden is the area bounded by laurel hedge, consisting of 4 large and 4 small outer beds (two of these are planted with roses and perennials) and 4 central beds. This area is being cleared by Friends and students from the Rural College (SRUC). Friends will focus their efforts on the SPRG. The four beds outwith the hedge will be worked on by SRUC.

The following plan has been made with these considerations in mind:

- 1 The value of being in green spaces and (re)connecting with nature to people's physical and mental wellbeing. We'd like to make the garden a restful and enriching space.
- 2 The very serious decline in biodiversity, especially of invertebrates, and the need to raise awareness of this issue.
- 3 'That the power of a garden lies in its very smallest inhabitants (i.e. pollinators and soil and plant dwelling invertebrates) looking after them will have the greatest positive impact for biodiversity.' (Royal Horticultural Society)
- 4) We want to recycle and be sustainable, as far as possible:-
Using materials found in the park - fallen wood for seating; bee and bug hotels, stumperies etc. Leaves for mulch. Increasing our plant stock by taking cuttings, seed collecting, dividing perennials etc. And plant swaps. Installing leaf and compost bins on site, both provide homes for wildlife. Planting comfrey for use as a plant food and green manures.
- 5 Through our work in the SPRG and other activities encourage people to create their own wildlife friendly, climate resilient spaces.
- 6 To create an attractive space for small scale poetry/arts events.

TIMETABLE (now - 24 months)

Continue clearing the beds, then sow with green manures or cover with wood chip and leave for a year. Meanwhile:-

Hard prune the laurel hedge.

Install compost and leaf bins.

Hold 'meet and greet' sessions to share and discuss ideas

Hold gardening workshops.

Keep images and written records of our work. Ongoing

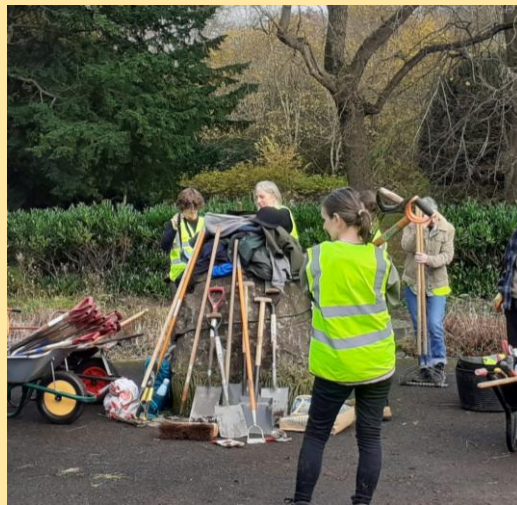
Monitor and record life in the garden in a regular and standardised manner. Ongoing.

Plant up the two small beds.

Add bee, bug hotels, log piles.

Design the garden - measure up site, draw plan, select plants.

A year or so from now prepare beds and begin planting, this will extend beyond 24 months.



OTHER IDEAS - some from an environmental scientist - to consider:-

Raised beds, these would enable a more varied planting; provide seating and be easier to work for many people –

Harvesting rainwater/water feature. Even in Glasgow plants dry out and new plants need watering in. Water in the garden will encourage more wildlife –

Providing shade – Planting aromatics in between paving slabs.

Growing climbers through the laurel. Where other shrubs appear

amongst laurel let them thrive – Grow wildflowers among the roses –

We'd want to involve other groups or individuals in organising workshops or citizen science projects.

And we always welcome more gardeners. If you would like to be part of our ambitious plans for the rose garden please contact

volunteer@friendsofqueensparkglasgow.org.uk

Susan Readman

FOQP BIODIVERSITY RECORDING



Queen's Park is having a fabulous spring! Despite the disruption to habitat that January's Storm Eowyn wrought, the volume of deadwood it shook from the trees has aided the speed with which nests were built; across the two ponds we have three coot and four moorhen nests! In early March, the small pond hosted a bumper turnout of spawning frogs, and at the end of the month, after sundown, the bats returned; common and soprano pipstrelles and Daubentons bats are once again visiting both ponds. We are privileged to have such amazing nature on our southside doorstep.

FoQP biodiversity and biodiversity recording meetings.

This year, the FoQP team will meet every other Sunday between May and November for observations and discussions about the park wildlife and habitat. Our 2025 biodiversity recording meet ups will kick off with **The City Nature Challenge on Sunday 27th April!**

Once again, FoQP are joining forces with RSPB Glasgow for this global annual 'bioblitz'. To record our sightings, we will be using *iNaturalist*, a biodiversity spotting and identification app founded by *National Geographic*. **This is where you come in!** The biodiversity recording team would love your help over these four days to build a thorough understanding of the spring wildlife, flora and habitat in Queen's Park. It's easy to do, just download the app, create your profile and agree to sharing your observations and location with the global *iNaturalist* community:

Download *iNaturalist* for Android from Google Play store:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.inaturalist.android&hl=en_GB&pli=1

Download *iNaturalist* from the Apple store:

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/inaturalist/id421397028>



To join the volunteer-led CNC ‘bioblitz’ session in the park on Sunday 27th April, meet us at the concrete bench by the small pond at 10 am for an initial briefing and an area to map. If you cannot make 10 am, don’t worry, we’ll be at the small pond on the hour each hour until 4pm to meet new recruits. Look out for our volunteers in the hi-viz vests. If you can contribute even just 10 minutes and a couple of sightings, you are helping us enormously! This year we want to reach the lesser frequented areas of the park and uncover their wildlife secrets.

If you cannot do Sunday, also do not worry! The City Nature Challenge 2025 runs from Friday 25th April until Monday 28th April, you can pop into the park anytime over those four days to make your observations.

As well as contributing to a global nature-mapping research project, the data you gather helps us represent the nature in Queen’s Park to Glasgow City Council, and the sightings recorded will be logged in the city’s biological records.

Pssst... If you missed our nature feature in the printed March edition of the Greater Govanhill Community Magazine, here’s the link to it online:

<https://www.greatergovanhill.com/latest/the-secret-life-of-queens-park>

Please join us! The team will grow from strength to strength with more volunteers! Check the FoQP Facebook page for details.

Alison Brown

To volunteer, contact
volunteer@friendsofqueensparkglasgow.org.uk
To donate, or for background info, see our website
<https://www.friendsofqueensparkglasgow.org.uk/>
(Facebook best for info on events)

