



GREEN CONNECT PROJECT

Project Overview

Women Connect First are pleased to announce the launch of our new Green Connect Project funded by the Welsh Government and National Lottery Heritage Fund's 'Local Places for Nature – Breaking Barriers' grant programme.

This exciting project will work with women & young people from ethnically diverse backgrounds to explore and understand what are the barriers that prevent them from engaging in nature and how we can overcome these barriers. The project aims to educate, inspire and support our service users, other partner organisations and women's groups to be confident in starting up their own community projects that will keep them engaged with nature through training and workshops.

The Green Connect Project will ensure that women & young people from our diverse minority and deprived communities will have a better understanding of their local environment, community spaces, green spaces, heritage sites and the importance of looking after them; in addition, the role that they can play in preserving our local nature for future generations. This would also give them a sense of belonging to local Welsh heritage and also learning about the benefits of engaging in nature. This project will involve young people in our research and workshops so that they too can contribute and develop an interest in nature and the career opportunities available in this field.

Project Activities:

1. Engage with BAME women and children through focus groups and surveys, to research the barriers that prevent them accessing and engaging with nature and explore how these can be overcome
2. Participate in the evaluation of the Breaking Barriers Fund
3. Deliver seminars and workshops to give people first-hand experience of the benefits of connecting with nature, e.g.: conservation; food growing; using local produce/retailers; Fair Trade; recycling

4. Deliver workshops to build the confidence of participants and other groups to start their own nature projects, e.g.: skills and resources to run projects; applying for community spaces and funding
5. Organise activities, visits to local community projects, gardens or allotments, and opportunities to get involved with and volunteer at other local nature projects
6. Develop a Local Plan for Nature to take forward project learning, including: seeking support/funding to create future places for nature; barriers and how to overcome them
7. Produce an interim Reflections Report, on learning, barriers to participation and issues identified, for the period from project start to June 2022
8. Participate in work with Welsh Government and the National Lottery Heritage Fund to co-produce the Local Places for Nature Programme for future years