

Thriving in Nature Fund

Grants awarded August 2025

Organisation funded	Amount awarded	Type of activity funded	Local Authority
Bridewell Gardens	£50,000	The grant will help fund Bridewell's therapeutic horticulture service for adults recovering from serious mental illness. It supports skill-building, confidence and pathways to work, education or volunteering. The service includes transport, materials and seasonal activities, and is the only specialist provision of its kind in West Oxfordshire.	West Oxfordshire
Bridge Street Community Gardens	£10,000	Bridge Street Community Garden is a forest garden and community hub in central Banbury, offering free food, nature connection and inclusive activities. Partnering with local groups, it supports marginalised communities through shared growing spaces and wellbeing-focused sessions, helping people build skills, confidence and a sense of belonging outdoors.	Cherwell
Friends of St John Fisher Primary School	£10,000	The grant will help transform an underused field into a dedicated outdoor learning and wellbeing space. Designed with pupil input, it will include sensory planting, seating and a gazebo for year-round use. The space will support emotional regulation, imaginative play and structured learning, especially for children with SEND and trauma-related needs.	Oxford city
GroW Families	£3,100	The grant will support twice-monthly outdoor sessions for families with young children, run in partnership with Sustainable Wantage and Betjeman Park Trust. Activities like nature hunts, mud kitchens and shared stories will promote wellbeing and development. The sessions offer a calming alternative to indoor groups and encourage connection with nature.	Vale of White Horse
Letcombe Brook Project	£27,200	The grant will fund a freelance Community Liaison Officer to expand outreach and volunteering around Letcombe Brook. Activities include nature walks, school visits, family-friendly work parties and wildlife sessions. With support from Sustainable Wantage, the project will engage new audiences, promote wellbeing and improve access to nature-rich green spaces.	Vale of White Horse

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Proud To Be Me C.I.C	£10,000	The grant will fund Green Roots, a six-session outdoor programme combining nature, creativity and enterprise for marginalised young people. Participants will explore green business ideas, receive mentoring and build practical skills using specialist tools and kits. The project removes barriers to access and supports long-term wellbeing and economic inclusion.	Oxford city
Roots Radical Learning CIO	£41,200	The grant will fund a part-time Community Coordinator and essential upgrades to the site. This will expand access for underrepresented groups, improve facilities for year-round use and support inclusive events, workshops and volunteering. The role will strengthen partnerships, coordinate programming and help two grassroots organisations grow sustainably.	Oxford city
Stonehill Co-housing	£10,000	Funding will pilot a weekly forest school club for local children and parents – promoting outdoor play, wellbeing and nature connection. Run by a qualified facilitator, the club will demonstrate the site's potential for wider use. Infrastructure improvements will also support occasional access for groups working with young people and families.	Vale of White Horse
Sunrise Multicultural Project	£44,600	Sunrise will deliver a varied programme of nature-based activities to support wellbeing and connection for marginalised families. Sessions will include gardening, women's outdoor fitness, creative workshops and family trips to places like Wendover Woods – offering safe, supported access to green space for those with limited opportunities to enjoy it.	Cherwell
T(ART) Production	£10,000	T(ART) will create a community allotment for LGBTQIA+ people – offering gardening, creative workshops and wellbeing events in a safe, inclusive space. With many LGBTQIA+ people less likely to have outdoor space of their own, the project will support mental health, build community and foster connection across Oxford's wider population.	Oxford city
The Branch Trust	£12,700	The Branch will use its new therapeutic garden to run horticulture sessions for young people in alternative provision, adults with learning disabilities and local families. Activities include growing food, creative nature-based projects and shared meals – helping participants build confidence, wellbeing and skills, with pathways into education, training and rural employment.	West Oxfordshire



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TRAIN - Inspiring Young People	£18,200	TRAIN will run two residential sailing voyages for disadvantaged young people – combining nature immersion, teamwork and skill-building. With preparation and follow-up support, the programme helps participants grow in confidence, resilience and aspiration. Many face barriers to outdoor experiences, making this a rare opportunity to reset, reflect and feel empowered.	South Oxfordshire
Wild About Wallingford	£3,000	Wild About Wallingford will run hands-on volunteer sessions, help shape a new community allotment and support restoration of a much-loved local brook. These projects will bring people together to care for shared spaces, grow food, and reconnect with nature – especially those facing isolation, low income or limited outdoor access.	South Oxfordshire
TOTAL	£250,000		

