JOHN MUIR AWARD SCRAPBOOK

MY LOCAL PARK EXPERIENCE

DISCOVER - EXPLORE - CONSERVE - SHARE

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DISCOVER

02 FIRST IMPRESSIONS





My local park is a familiar place but beginning this John Muir Award experience encouraged me to see it differently. The childrens play area, bowling green, flower beds, tarmac paths, benches and the river at the back all form a landscape that blends nature with community life. I chose this park because it is accessible, walkable and full of small ecosystems that often go unnoticed. I hoped to deepen my understanding of sustainability by paying attention to the everyday interactions between people, wildlife and environemnt.

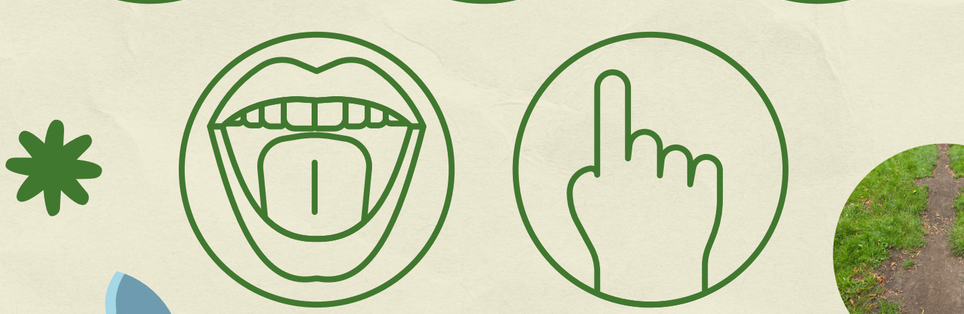















SENSORY MAP

SOUNDS: BIRDS CALLING, RIVER FLOWING, WIND MOVING THROUGH LEAVES

SMELLS: FRESH CUT GRASS, FLORAL SCENTS FROM FLOWER BEDS, DAMP EARTH NEAR RIVER

SIGHTS: SQUIRRELS DARTING ACROSS PATHS, COLOURFUL FLOWERS, FAMILIES USING THE PLAY AREA

TEXTURES: SMOOTH TARMAC, ROUGH BARK, SOFT GRASS, COLD METAL BENCHES

TASTES: FRESH AIR

This sensory map helped me slow down and notice the richness of the park beyond its surface.

WILDLIFE DISCOVERY





During my visits, I observed robins, blackbirds, pigeons and the odd magpie; although these proved difficult to photograph. Squirrels were the most active, often running across the grass and up into trees. small insects moved through the flower beds and I spotted bees visiting open blooms of hydrangeas. These everyday creatures reminded me that even busy local parks support diverse wildlife and play a vital role in local ecosystems.

FLOWERS & PLANTS



CAN YOU SPOT THE BEE?

I noticed bees visiting the flowers, particularly the blue hydrangeas.



The colours shifted slightly depending on the time of day and availability of light.

THE FLOWER BEDS WERE VIBRANT AND CAREFULLY MAINTAINED.



These planted areas support pollinators and show how human design can contribute positively to biodiversity.



THE RIVER

The river at the back of the park became one of my favourite places to pause. Its movement created a calming atmosphere and I often felt more grounded when standing near it.

I noticed changes in water clarity and wildlife presence. The river reminded me that sustainability is deeply connected to water systems, pollution and the health of local habitats.

River moves quiet past the parks worn line,

Its current keeping pace with shouts that climb,

Voices scatter, rise, then thin in air,

Evening folds the day with steady care,

Ripples drift downward, carrying what was there.

EXPLORE

WALKING THE TARMAC PATHS

The tarmac paths make the park accessible for wheelchairs, prams and people with mobility needs. As I walked them, I realised how important inclusive design is for social sustainability. These paths connect different areas of the park, guiding visitors through spaces that support wellbeing, play, rest and connection with nature.







PARKS HISTORY

BOWLING GREEN



The bowling green at Gelli park was first laid in 1912 and soon became home to Gelli Park Bowls Club. It is still very much used on a regular basis today by the local community (Leeworthy, 2011).

THEN & NOW



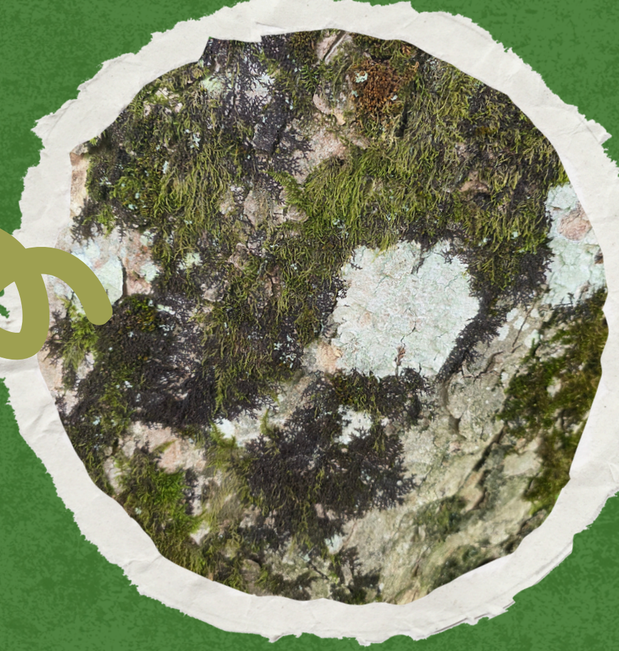


Frith (1965)

The 1965 photograph shows Gelli Park with an older cast iron and wooden bench, reflecting the design of that time. Today, the benches have been replaced with modern metal styles, highlighting how the park's features have been updated to meet contempory needs.



MICRO-DISCOVERIES







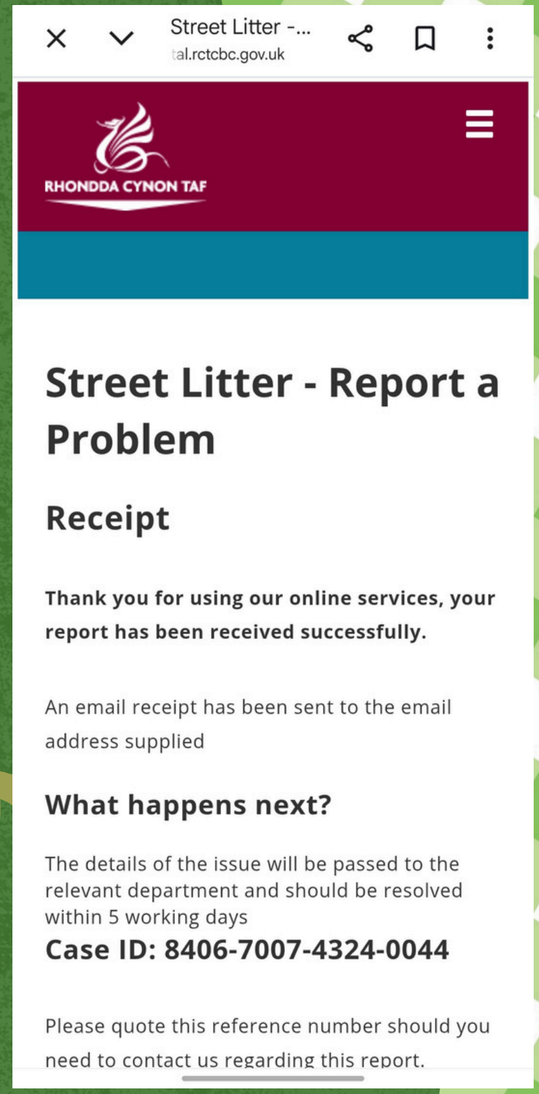
I noticed tiny details I had never paid attention to before: lichen patterns on tree trunks, the texture of bark, fallen leaves at the bottom of a tree trunk and what looks like evidence of caterpillars on certain leaves. These micro-discoveries helped me further appreciate the complexity of the parks ecosystems and the importance of noticng “small wonders.”

CONSERVE

LITTER ISSUE



I noticed a build up of litter during one of my visits to the park but did not have the appropriate equipment to carry out a safe litter pick. Instead of acting unsafely, I reported the issue to the local council so it could be addressed properly. This still reflects responsible stewardship, showing that sustainability also involves knowing when to seek support from the right services.



SUPPORTING LOCAL BIRDS

HANDMADE BIRD FEEDER FOR LOCAL WILDLFIE







INSTRUCTIONS

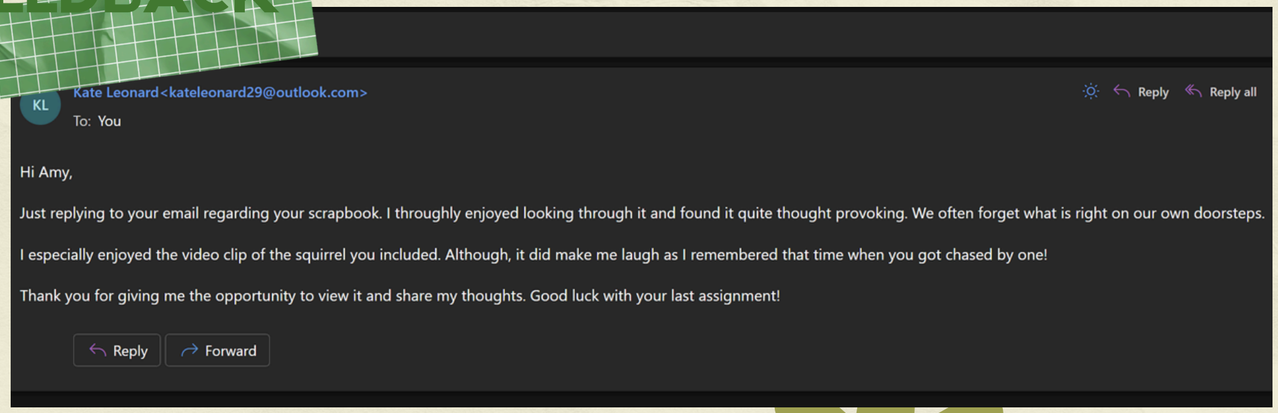
STEP 1: TIE THE STICKS IN A CROSS WITH THE STING
STEP 2: CORE APPLE AND PULL STING THROUGH, TIE LOOP AT TOP
STEP 3: PRESS SEEDS INTO APPLE
STPE 4: HANG SOMEWHERE SFAELY FOR BIRDS TO ACCESS

I made a simple bird feeder using apples, seeds, sticks and sting and hung it in a quiet spot where birds reguarly gather. This small conservation action supported local wildlife and helped me engage practically with caring for the parks natural environemnt.

SHARE

SHARING MY WORK WITH OTHERS

FEEDBACK



KL Kate Leonard<kateleonard29@outlook.com>

To: You

Reply Reply all

Hi Amy,

Just replying to your email regarding your scrapbook. I throughly enjoyed looking through it and found it quite thought provoking. We often forget what is right on our own doorsteps.

I especially enjoyed the video clip of the squirrel you included. Although, it did make me laugh as I remembered that time when you got chased by one!

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to view it and share my thoughts. Good luck with your last assignment!

Reply Forward

I shared my scrapbook via email with a friend to get an outside perspective on my wokr. Their response was postive and showed that the scrapbook clearly communictaed my experiences and reflections. Including their feedback demonstartes how sharing learning can help others connect with the place and understand the purpose behind the John Muir Award.

PHOTO COLLAGE

