

Celebrating Skylarks at Riverside

Dundee City Council is asking visitors to Take Pride in Riverside Nature Park and help look after ground nesting birds.

The nature park, created on an area of landfill by the River Tay, is home to the largest wildflower meadows in the city and is a popular place for walkers and dog walkers.

In an effort to protect ground nesting birds, including skylarks, the council and Friends Group will be asking visitors again for their help.

From April 1 signs will be in place requesting that all visitors keep to surfaced paths and keep dogs on lead in one half of the Park - the hill meadow, which is ideal nesting for the Skylark.

It is in this area which the Council really need support from visitors and dog walkers, in order to give these birds a chance of breeding successfully. The eastern half of the park will still be available for off lead exercise.

City council neighbourhood services convener Councillor Kevin Cordell said: "People told us they were enjoying a significant increase in Skylarks singing at Riverside Nature Park last year.

"This is a marvellous conservation success story – with users and volunteers working together."

The birds will be monitored by volunteers over the breeding season once more to see if nesting becomes more successful. Council officers and volunteers invite visitors to Celebrate Skylarks and meet the Friends of Riverside Nature Park on at the car park entrance from 10am on Monday April 1.

The "Up With The Lark" event organised by the Friends of Riverside Nature Park will enjoy the early morning chorus of bird song at the Nature Park. Meeting in the car park at 7:30am on Sunday 31st March. Warm clothes recommended, bring binoculars if you can.

There are other events held throughout the year at the Nature Park to help people find out more about the fantastic biodiversity living there. Projects for volunteers to help manage the habitats include hedge planting, litter picks and wildlife surveys. Find out more from signs at the Park or at <https://www.facebook.com/riversidenatureparkdundee>

Find out more about the park at <https://www.dundee.gov.uk/environment/riversidenature>

There will also be a tree planting event at Riverside Nature Park at 1pm on Sunday March 31.