



Outcome: Environment

Volunteer case study: Carol - TCV Adur and Worthing

“There is an urgent need for us to make the most out of every bit of urban green space to achieve positive impactful change to benefit communities and the planet, whether its planting more trees and wildflowers or greening the grey by establishing community gardens.”

**Through the work of The Conservation Volunteers,
green spaces are created, protected and
improved, for nature and for people**

Passion for having a positive effect on green spaces is something that all our volunteers have in common, but for one volunteer, establishing community gardens for the benefit of people and the environment in her local area has become a major project.

Carol lives in one of the neighbourhoods targeted by the TCV Growing Communities project, which is in partnership with Adur & Worthing Councils and The National Lottery. With a community-led approach, it uses green spaces as a canvas to improve the health and wellbeing of local people.

**93% of our volunteers are more connected to
nature since volunteering with TCV**

Source: TCV impact figures 2020





"I became very unwell. After a bereavement, my nervous system crashed and so my life has been on a serious lockdown for almost three years as a result.

As my world had become smaller and I was unable to work, it made me take more notice of the green spaces in my local area and they took on more importance."

Connection to nature has always been important for Carol. When she became a full time Mother, life was centred locally, so her green spaces took on more significance. This led her to volunteering with TCV.

Carol's passion for health, the outdoors, horticulture and garden design meant that TCV was the perfect fit, so she approached TCV with the idea of transforming unloved verges in a local car park in her neighbourhood into a beautiful green space.

She started by planting a few low-maintenance plants to replace the patches of weedy and uninspiring grass verges. She then moved onto sowing wildflowers to compare different wildflower seed mixes.



The site has since been included on a newly established wildflower trail.

Volunteering with TCV helped Carol take her mind away from her symptoms and gave her a focus on doing things she loved, not just for herself but for her community as well.



In just a year our volunteers have planted 49,795 wildflower plugs for the benefit of invertebrates across the UK

Source: TCV impact figures 2020

Carol's project has had a significant impact on local biodiversity too and reaffirmed her passion to 'green the grey'.

Carol believes that there is an urgent need for people to make the most of every bit of urban green space. Her dedication to this has led her to meeting with local authorities and key partners to discuss and take action regarding increasing urban biodiversity.

Her story is a good example of a TCV project that has multiple outcomes for volunteers and their community as well as the environment.

For Carol's local green space, this has meant an increase in wildflower coverage in the hope of increasing species diversity. Plus, the wider environment benefits from another voice to advocate for bringing back some biodiversity into our urban landscape.



"Carol's passion to transform a small unassuming green space in a simple but impactful way has had a knock-on effect within the neighbourhood."

Her project of transforming an unloved car park has expanded to include renovating other neglected small green spaces in the areas."

Deborah Nicholls – Project Officer at TCV Adur and Worthing

Find more ways how TCV's projects and volunteers impact on the environment and how you can help by visiting our website.

www.tcv.org.uk

