

Leading Change

How an ecosystem can improve a community



Introduction:

- Over the course of our project, as a team, we aim to improve biodiversity around our school. We aim to primarily follow global goals 14 and 15 (life below water and life on land). This will be done through the development of a local pond. We would like to do this as if we begin to reintroduce biodiversity to the area, it may encourage more local people to assist in maintaining a good standard for the pond in turn re-introducing wildlife to the area.

Our goals:

- We aim to improve:
- Biodiversity
- Landscape
- Wildlife
- Recreation opportunities
- We aim to do this through the development of a local pond



How we can achieve our goals:

- Provide habitats to endangered species.
- Restore ecosystems.
- Support biodiversity
- Aid local species



What we will do to achieve our goals:

- Create a pond.
- Plant oxygenating plants.
- Plant tall grass.
- Create Mason Bee habitats.
- Implement an area with flat land and freshly cut grass in an open sunny area.



Our site

- Currently, the area which we plan to convert into a pond lacks important plant life which acts as a basis to create a pond ecosystem.
- We aim to improve the body of water by planting oxygenating pond plants such as willow moss, water iris, water starwort and hornwort.



Why are ponds
important locally?



Cumbria
Wildlife Trust

Great Crested Newt:

- These amphibians can be found all over the UK
- However, in the last century, their populations have been steadily declining.
- It has been recently made illegal to capture, kill or own any of the species as an aim to begin to reintroduce them to the area.



Dragonflies:

Dragonflies are very important for ecosystems because they effectively control the populations of insects such as mosquitos and flies.

Dragonflies require bodies of water such as ponds for their lifecycle because they lay their eggs in and around water because it provides a safe habitat for the larvae.



Common Frog:

- Frogs rely on environments such as ponds to thrive because they lay their frogspawn in bodies of water such as ponds.
- Frogs require this environment to grow from tadpoles to adult frogs.
- They also spend winter at the bottom of ponds to avoid cold weather.



Pond Skaters:

- Pond skaters primarily live on the surface of ponds, lakes and slow-moving rivers.
- Pond skaters lay their eggs on submerged rocks and vegetation in ponds or other bodies of water.
- Pond skaters are likely to appear during summer because they favor temperatures over 25 degrees.



Grass snake:

- Grass snake are Protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.
- Grass snake like in wetlands and drylands near ponds.
- During the summer, grass snake can be spotted basking in the sun near their favourite ponds or swimming in the water.



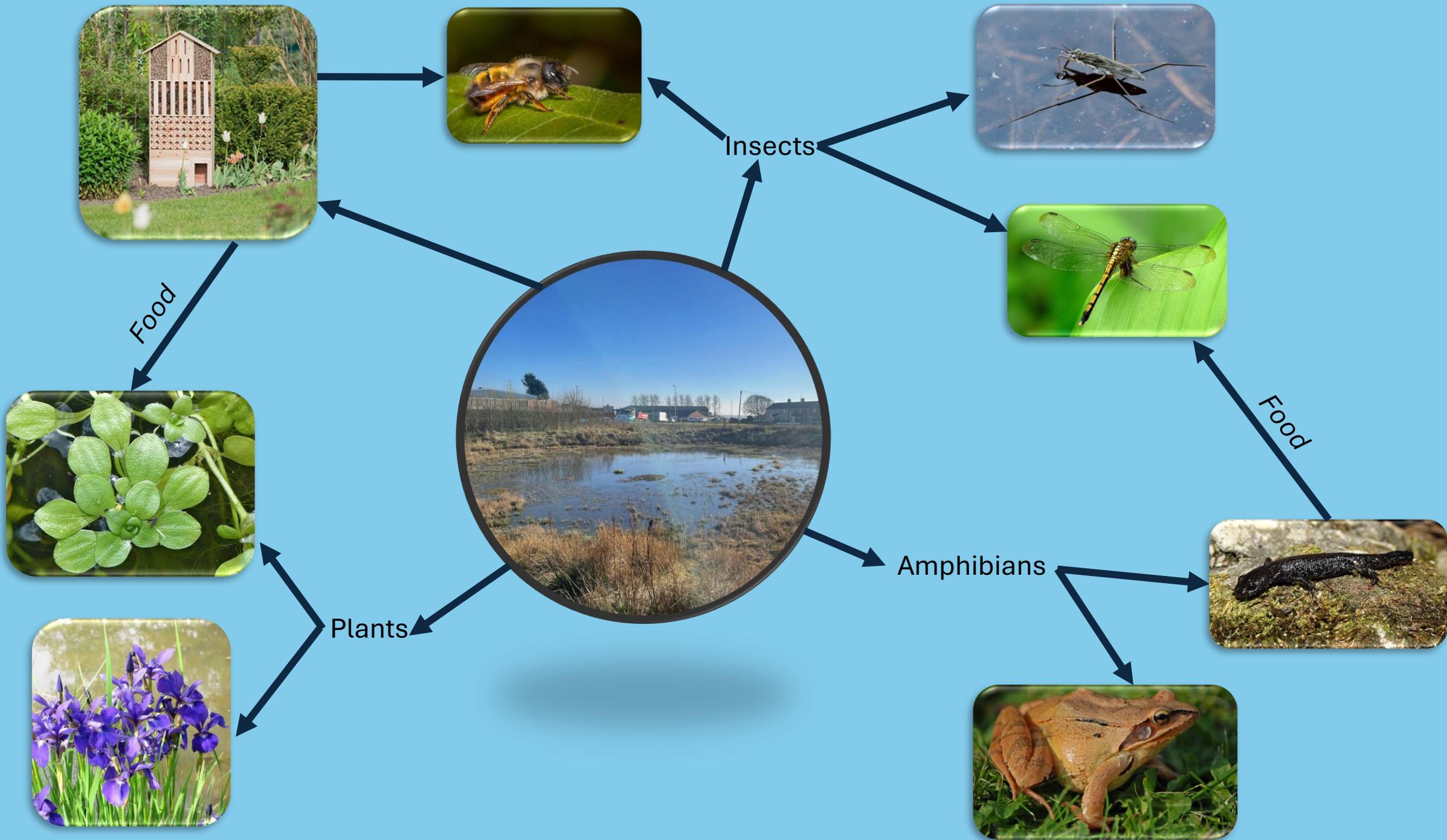
Theoretical costs and how we can budget

- Standing insect hotel: £142.90
- Live oxygenating plants: £6.99
- £10.00 each

We plan to buy an insect hotel which we will stand in an open area near the pond. This hotel will sustain the growth and reproduction of insect populations which can pollinate our pond plants.

We also plan to purchase a large amount of pond plants which will improve the quality of the pond and act as a food source for pond insects.





Thank you for
listening!



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