## Westley Vale Millennium Green



The Westley Vale Millennium Green is a 5.5 acre site which is a site of natural beauty surrounded by a dense urban landscape. It is beside the Grand Union Canal and has woodland and wetland plus a mown green. The site rises above the canal area with the Westley Brook winding its way down to it through the wetland.

It was created by a group of local people with the help of a lottery grant and the Countryside Commission. The process took a couple of years to bring to fruition and open it to the public in 2000. To enable the local

community to enjoy the site a charitable trust was created so that the trustees could lease the land on a peppercorn rent from Birmingham City Council for 999 years. The site is managed by a group of trustees and the local community comes together to plant and manage the site as a conservation area.

Indígenous plants and trees have been introduced into areas of the site and the course of the brook was gently landscaped around a green. As an ex-allotment site raspberry and brambles abound and provide shelter and food for birds and animals. Against all acts of vandalism and litter



dumping, the site flourishes with the help of the local people who volunteer to litter pick and clean up.

The Westley Vale represents a green lung across which locals can walk using the three entrances to connect with other surrounding areas. Events have been held on the Green and it generally acts as a community facility and haven for wildlife.

