

## Instructions for Species Conservation Hub Volunteers

Firstly, a big **thank you** for getting involved with our rare wetland plant project!

This wetland plant conservation work is a collaboration between local expert Judy Webb, Oxford Botanic Garden and Freshwater Habitats Trust, with support from Oxford City Council who have permitted the introduction of cultivated rare wetland plants at some of their sites.

The collaboration is now being expanded to include Boundary Brook Nature Park, where we have set up our first Species Conservation Hub. The hub will help to raise awareness and allow the local community to become directly involved with the conservation of Oxford's rare wetland plants. It will also help to increase the capacity of the project, by creating more room for rare plant cultivation.

This ex-situ conservation work forms part of our **Saving Oxford's Wetland Wildlife** project, which is working with different stakeholders and volunteers at sites across Oxford to help monitor, improve, protect and raise awareness of some of Oxford's most valuable freshwater sites and species.

### About the Species Conservation Hub

The hub consists of several coloured tubs containing rare wetland plants, with an accompanying interpretation panel. You have also been supplied with some watering cans (one big and one small). If you require any extra kit to maintain the hub, please get in touch with Project Officer Ellie Mayhew: [emayhew@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk](mailto:emayhew@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk).

To begin with, the hub at Boundary Brook Nature Park will host some Greater Water-parsnip (*Sium latifolium*) plants, and this may be expanded depending on the progress of the cultivation of other rare wetland plant species at Oxford Botanic Garden (there are currently 7 species in propagation as part of this project).



### Looking after the Species Conservation Hub

**Please note:** plants from the Apiaceae family (such as Greater Water-parsnip) are sometimes known to cause rashes. Please take care when working around these plants, and wear work gloves if you handle them at all.

Looking after the Species Conservation Hub should be relatively simple. We would be grateful if you could ensure the following:

- Tubs containing the rare wetland plants are kept topped up with rainwater from the water butt which is situated behind the visitor centre (minimum depth should be 1 inch, but aim to keep the tubs about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> full)

- The plants in the newly restored pond and the groundwater-fed pond are in an upright position and are not heavily shaded by taller vegetation. It may be easiest to check them every time you top up the water in the tubs. If the plants are shaded, please clear the taller vegetation to allow plenty of sunlight to reach them.

If you have any queries or concerns, Project Officer Ellie Mayhew will be happy to help ([emayhew@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk](mailto:emayhew@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk)).

**Thank you for helping Oxford's rare wetland plants!**



**Left: Greater Water-parsnip Top Right: Creeping Marshwort Bottom Right: Fen Violet**