

## **Urban Wildlife - Fulton MacGregor MSP**

Urban and suburban habitats are not just concrete jungles; they also provide a home for a surprising variety of wildlife. From parks and gardens to old industrial areas and cemeteries, built-up areas can offer havens for wildlife.

Hello, I am Fulton MacGregor, Member of the Scottish Parliament for Coatbridge and Chryston, and I am the Nature Champion for the Great Crested Newt.

Great Crested Newts are Scotland's largest newt and named for the large crest that grows on the back of males in the breeding season. They are a threatened species in the UK, but some may be surprised to know that an old steel works in my constituency is the home to the largest known population of great crested newts in Scotland.

In fact, our towns and cities are home to many different species, including bird species, ranging from house sparrows to peregrine falcons. A leisurely stroll through a local park could reward you with sightings of great spotted woodpeckers, finches, and perhaps even a sparrowhawk.

We can all do our bit for nature, even from our own homes. Maybe consider planting flowers that attract butterflies or provide bird food for starlings, swifts, blue tits, and robins. Or, if you have the space, consider adding a pond to your garden, and you may entice darting dragonflies, croaking frogs or flamboyant newts to join your own urban oasis.