



Southeastern in Bloom 2024

Supporting Southeastern's A Railway for Nature Plan

Background

We developed our **Railway for Nature Plan** in 2023, which sets out Southeastern's vision for biodiversity to 2035. Our aim is to create wildlife friendly stations and depots, through working with our colleagues and communities.

The goals of our Railway for Nature Plan are:

1. No net loss of biodiversity across our estate by 2028
2. Biodiversity net gain across our estate by 2035
3. Southeastern is recognised as contributing to regional biodiversity objectives by 2035

Southeastern in Bloom empowers our colleagues and communities to contribute to biodiversity across our network, through creating gardens at our stations and depots.



Competition process

All Southeastern colleagues were welcome to apply for Southeastern in Bloom grants, regardless of whether they worked in a station, depot or office.

Our **3 competition categories** were:

Most Improved

Extra Mile

Most Creative

April
Applications opened to all colleagues

May
Funding given to **60** sites across the Southeastern network

May-August
Competition ran, with colleagues developing nature spaces at their sites

September
Winners announced, prize giving visits conducted

September
All colleagues given the opportunity to vote for their winners, in **3 categories**

August
Entries collected, summarising before/after progress at each site

Results

Entries were shortlisted to 3 per category. All Southeastern colleagues had the chance to vote for their favourites. The winners were...



Most Improved – Petts Wood Station

At Petts Wood, an unused area was transformed into a wild garden using recycled railway sleepers.



Extra Mile – Slade Green Engineering Depot

Our engineers created a vegetable patch to raise money for their local foodbank.



Most Creative – Faversham Crew Depot

A new courtyard of greenspace for traincrew to enjoy on their breaks.

Outcomes and engagement

Some of the environmental and social achievements from the project, and an overview of the updates shared with our colleagues and communities on the great work across the network.

5 new community partnerships across the network

11+ sites directly considered pollinators (bug hotels and plant selection)

5+ sites installed bird boxes, planters and bug hotels made with recycled materials

1 vegetable patch

£2000+ raised for charity

243 photographs shared by entrants

400+ colleague shortlist votes

10 tweets with photographs

8 articles + **100** photographs published on MySE

Looking forward

Following the competition, we reviewed what went well and what can be improved for 2025 through consulting our colleagues. These are the changes we want to make for next year...

- Provide more funding to more sites in 2025 to give projects more freedom and greater potential
- Carry out in person judging with volunteers across the business to select winners
- Provide more guidance to entrants to achieve the best biodiversity potential
- Consider new categories for our winners

We look forward to Southeastern in Bloom 2025 to continually improve this cross-network engagement and biodiversity enhancement.

