

Love Your River Telford

Lead Organisation:

SWM partners the Environment Agency



Partners:

Shropshire Wildlife Trust; BESST (Green Business Clubs Network Member); SWM members Severn Trent Water and Ricoh; Telford and Wrekin Council; Telford Green Spaces Partnership.

The Project

The project included a unique partnership of four government organisations, two non-government organisations, one water company, one university, sixteen community groups and an industry lead environmental group as detailed above. They worked together to address issues with water quality across Telford.

During the first year of the project a key achievement included bringing organisations together involving volunteers, schools, businesses and local communities. Volunteers monitored invertebrate and aquatic plants as indicators of water pollution.

Various solutions were implemented to address issues, including tree thinning, reeds planting, sustainable urban drainage system (SUDS) implementation and shared information to the local community.



Volunteers putting what they learnt into action with an aquatic plant survey

Aims

The Love Your River Telford project aims to improve water quality and aquatic habitat around the watercourses of Telford while at the same time improving protection of downstream potable drinking water supply.

Challenges

Challenges include finding the source of the pollution in the river as pollutants can come from a variety of sources including storm drains and businesses.

The Outcome

Results

- In total, of the eight water bodies in Telford included in the project, five have improved by at least one Water Framework Directive status and two have been prevented from deteriorating.
- The Environment Agency set up the following [page](#) to inform residents on progress.
- Awareness was raised in the local community and businesses within the area. Over 200 businesses were engaged, over 1,000 pupils got involved with a further 450 people engaged during events.
- Implementation of SUDS in Stirchley saw the highway no longer flooding and all contaminated runoff soaked away instead of flowing into the local watercourse.
- Water quality was improved in Lightmoor Brook through tree thinning allowing greater amounts of light to reach the water and reed planting.
- In Apley a bio-remediation island was constructed providing additional habitat whilst improving water quality.
- Large woody debris in Castlefield Marsh was used to slow water down reducing downstream flooding and allowing more time for nature to clean the water.
- Little Dawley pools was regenerated with over 450m of natural green barriers created providing a natural filter between runoff and the pools.



Reed and coir rolls placed in Little Dawley Pools to create a natural green barrier

- In the residential area of Sutton Hill 283m² of impermeable paving was replaced with permeable paving slowing water down leading to a reduced flood risk whilst improving water quality.
- Large financial savings were made with Severn Trent seeing potential savings of over £1million.
- Other Towns and cities have shown interest in the collaborative approach with Bromsgrove implementing a similar strategy.



In the Future

There have been many lessons learnt which will be used to improve the project for the future including having realistic expectations regarding the timeframe, making the most of the time by getting the collaborative agreements signed before the start of the project, keeping volunteers updated regarding incidents and investigations and how their actions have made a positive impact.

The Extra's

Links and Downloads

Environment Agency Blog <http://bit.ly/2xXhXhU>

[Clean Stream Team leaflet](#)

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