

Cleavelys Wet Woodland

City of Trees



Date

Design and planning began October 2015, work on the ground began in February 2016, and completed in March 2016. Restoration and habitat improvement works concluded in June 2016.

Location

Worsley Brook, Salford.

Background

Manchester City of Trees have undertaken work to improve the water quality of an unnamed tributary of Worsley Brook in Salford, through channel naturalisation, and the creation of wet woodland within a former council tree nursery, known as Cleavelys Nursery. The discharge from the tributary had been contributing to water quality failures within Worsley Brook under the Water Framework Directive.

Project

Wet woodland is an important habitat for animals and plants of both woodlands and wetlands. Wet and waterlogged woods provide important habitats for biodiversity with an abundance of lichens, mosses, sedges, rushes and ferns, and large numbers of invertebrates which support amphibians, mammals and birds. Dead wood associated with water provides a specialised habitat not found in dry woodland types which supports craneflies and other insects. These insects in turn, make ideal food for bats and other priority species like willow tit.

Partners

Environment Agency, Salford City Council, AECOM.

Themes



Urban



Healthy Rivers



Water Quality



Green Infrastructure



"It is becoming frequently more evident that by allowing streams to take a more natural course, we help improve the water quality of our rivers and brooks. At city of Trees we believe strongly that trees and other green infrastructure can be used to provide cost effective solutions to issues of water pollution and flooding, while providing a host of other tangible benefits for people."

Bryan Cosgrove, City of Trees



Outcomes

This project allows the stream to take a more natural course through the woodland and will help to breakdown particulates and other pollutants that are being carried into Worsley Brook from the M60 motorway junction.

Learning

As well as providing a good opportunity for learning how more of this type of collaborative project might be delivered in future, the site is providing ongoing research opportunities to students at University of Salford, who are studying the effect of the stream's new alignment on the levels of suspended solids and other contaminants being transported into Worsley Brook, as well as the impact of the scheme on the overall biodiversity of the site.

Next Steps

During the spring and early summer of 2016, we worked a number of student, corporate and community volunteer groups to tackle invasive plants, plant wet-loving shrubs and wetland wildflowers, to help revegetate the bare soil, and provide new habitat.

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