



## Glenbrook Wetlands, Salmons Brook Catchment, Enfield

### The story so far

Largely hidden from view in underground pipes, the Glenbrook was badly polluted and damaged. A tributary of the Salmons Brook, itself a tributary of the River Lea, it is now in much better shape thanks to the creation of six new linked wetland basins. These wetlands are designed to filter pollutants from the Glenbrook; each one successively cleaning the stream. Wetland loving plants are helping to remove phosphate and nitrate from the water. Meanwhile bacteria in the soil and roots are breaking down oils and heavy metals washed into the brook.

### The river was restored by

- Creating 'integrated wetlands' and removing trees
- Planting native species such as marsh marigold in the wetlands
- Adding gravel to the river bed
- Monitoring water quality

### How has it helped wildlife?

- Water quality is improved with reductions in the levels of phosphate by 23%, total nitrogen by 43% and ammonia by a staggering 67%.
- Local community is involved in checking for misconnected household pipes; further improving the brook's water quality.
- The new gravel bed channel will attract invertebrates.
- The integrated wetland basins attract a variety of species, incl. dragonflies.
- Increased light by removing trees means more plants can grow and form a wider habitat variety for wildlife.

### How has it helped people?

- Wetlands not only clean the water, but create interest for passersby.
- Anti-social behaviour such as littering and fly-tipping has already reduced and the community is feeling safer.

### Partnership organisations

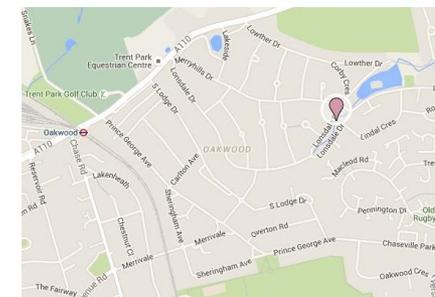
Thames21, London Borough of Enfield, Environment Agency, Thames Water



*AFTER – a carpet of green covers the wetlands*



*BEFORE – The site lacked soul and a friendly atmosphere prior to the restoration effort*



**Nearest Station: Oakwood**