



Beam Parklands

“It’s incredible to think before work began on the park, this was a low quality space with antisocial behaviour issues. Now after only one year of operation it’s among the best parks in the country.”
Chief Executive of the Land Trust

The story so far

A formerly bleak spot with antisocial behaviour issues has been transformed into 13 hectares of precious habitat with reedbed, wet woodland, ponds, lowland acid grassland and wet fen areas. Approximately one kilometre of river has been improved for wildlife – restoring parts of both the Wantz stream and the River Beam.

The river was restored by

- Creating low level natural structures in the channel for aquatic plants to colonise
- Reconnecting the river with its floodplain
- Creating backwaters (side channels for fish to rest in)
- Fixing misconnected sewage pipes

How has it helped wildlife?

- New ponds are providing wildlife habitats.
- Shallow scrapes adjacent to the river will enable wet woodland and reedbeds to grow – providing more wetland habitat.
- Improved water quality by working with Thames Water to fix 8 misconnections

How has it helped people?

- The increased habitat quality is bringing an estimated £536,000 in economic benefits to the area.
- The real coup is that locals are now involved in the management of the park and schoolchildren are accessing educational and community events.
- With easier access via improved park entrances and a new footbridge over the Beam, people are now regular visitors to the park and often use its 8km of new pathways and cycleways for pleasure.

How does it help reduce flood risk?

570 homes & 90 businesses are better protected by the flood storage washland & improved flood banks.

Partnership organisations

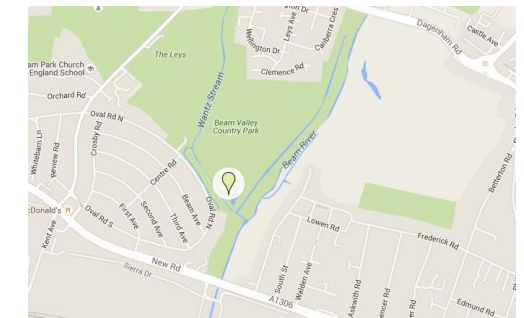
London Borough of Barking & Dagenham, Environment Agency and the Land Trust.



AFTER – Today Beam Parklands flourishes with green and blue after its rewilding.



BEFORE – Beam Parklands was a barren and bleak spot prior to the restoration effort.



Nearest Station: Dagenham Dock