



Mayes Brook, Mayesbrook Park, Barking & Dagenham

“Mayesbrook Climate Change Park is a UK first... Improving our green spaces is an important tool to tackle the challenges posed by our changing climate.” Cllr Bert Collins, Cabinet Member for Culture and Sport.

The story so far

Once hidden from public view behind metal fencing, restoration work here has rejuvenated the site. By releasing sections of the Mayes Brook from a straight channel into a new winding course that flows through 1.5ha of new floodplain, this formerly overlooked river is now the centrepiece of Mayesbrook Park.

The river was restored by

- Creating a new meandering channel, backwaters (side channels for fish to rest in) and shallow scrapes for collecting water
- Removing railings and bank reprofiling
- Creating new floodplain habitats with 1ha of extra native woodland and reedbeds
- New footpaths, play and fitness facilities
- Reconnecting 225 local properties to the correct sewer pipes

How has it helped wildlife?

- This restored river is more resilient to climate change pressures

(such as drought and flooding), which in turn helps wildlife.

- Increased habitat diversity.
- There is less phosphate in the water.

How has it helped people?

- Residents can now access more facilities for play and recreation, including new Olympic legacy and public art works.
- Park use has increased highlighting residents' enjoyment.

How does it protect against flooding?

- With an additional 1.5 hectares of flood storage and new scrapes, there's extra space for water to collect and the naturally-profiled channels can better cope with higher, faster flows of water.

Partnership organisations

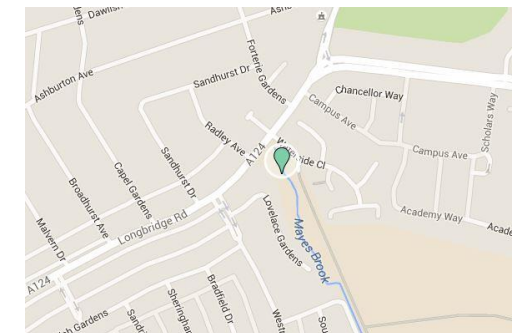
London Borough of Barking & Dagenham, Environment Agency, Natural England, Thames Rivers Restoration Trust, Greater London Authority, Olympic Development Association, Thames Water.



AFTER – The river is given new life as it meanders proudly through the Mayesbrook Park grassland



BEFORE – Metal fencing blocked access to the river – marginalising it to the side of the park



Nearest Station: Upney