

# **Rivers and Wetlands Community Days**

## **Project Summary**

Harrow's water bodies range from clean to highly degraded. Invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam crowd out native plants and cause bank erosion, while misconnections and deliberate dumping cause considerable pollution.

The ongoing Harrow Council Yeading Brook Unbound project, funded by ReWild London, is funding major watercourse improvements on the currently poor Yeading Brook West, while Harrow Nature Conservation Forum's Better Water For Wetlands project, funded by the Crane River Partnership, is investigating sources of pollution on the Yeading Brook East.

However, without regular sampling of aquatic invertebrates we will not know whether these schemes have been successful in improving these streams.

We will empower existing volunteer groups and recruit new volunteers to:

- Map and tackle invasive plants.
- Commence Riverfly water quality monitoring at 6 new sites, evidencing improvements from above projects.
- Make regular quantitative measurements of ammonia and phosphate.
- Gain proficiency in aquatic/marginal plant and invertebrate identification
- Survey and assess local waterbodies, reporting species records to local and national databases.
- Undertake eDNA survey of 10 flagship ponds for Great Crested Newt
- Organize 12 public events to increase awareness of Harrow's ponds and rivers,
- pollution and other problems and engage new supporters.
- Generate and distribute online and printed publicity material to engage local communities.

## **Bid Documentation & Timeline**

06<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – Initial discussions with Stakeholders (Harrow Nature Conservation Forum, Friends of Headstone Manor Park, Friends of Yeading Walk. Friends of Roxbourne Park)

08<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – Draft application issued for discussion with stakeholders (Harrow Nature Conservation Forum, Friends of Headstone Manor Park, Friends of Yeading Walk. Friends of Roxbourne Park)

13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 - Official Bid Submitted

21<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – Confirmation of successful bid

30<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – Introduction Meeting (Via Zoom)

01<sup>st</sup> May 2023 – FoHMP confirm Community Engagement Events as 2 x Wetland Walks on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 & 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

19<sup>TH</sup> May 2023 – Project meeting arranged for 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at Headstone Manor Park at 10.00am including distribution of Equipment.

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 – Draft Leaflet & Map issued for comment.

24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – Comments on Draft Leaflet & Map issued by FoHMP.

25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – Project meeting at Headstone Manor Park including distribution of equipment and review of Draft Leaflet & Map

29<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – Revised Leaflet & Map issued additional comments issued by FoHMP, FoYW (Friends of Yeading Walk) & FoRP (Friends of Roxbourne Park)

30<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – Himalayan Balsam lambasting at Roxbourne Park undertaken by FoRP, HWA (Harrow Wildlife Action) & Hillingdon's Woodlarks and Waders volunteers.