

## Love Your River Telford – Shropshire *Innovation project*

This project has created an award winning multi beneficial urban catchment management model, encouraging stakeholders and organisations to work together in partnership to improve water quality in Telford in Shropshire. It combines and compliments community engagement and physical improvements in an innovative way based around the Clean Stream Team.

Before implementation of the Love Your River Telford project, stakeholders worked independently, with disconnected approaches and duplication. This project has combined the efforts of all stakeholders, sharing knowledge, experiences, tools and authority, to improve water quality and biodiversity while reducing flood risk and creating multiple benefits for the local community and businesses. The project partners have improved watercourses at 18 locations across Telford. Restoration techniques include deculverting, wetland creation, flood storage creation, highways SUDS, raingardens, riparian habitats, natural flood management, and floodplain reconnection.

Other UK towns have successfully implemented this innovative urban catchment management model created in Telford, and the Love Your River Telford Project will continue to provide advice and guidance to these towns. The monitoring and evaluation of pre- and post-project data has highlighted water quality improvements, with five of eight waterbodies in the catchment improving by at least one Water Framework Directive status over the course of the project. 29,000m<sup>2</sup> of habitat has also been created, with 23,100m<sup>2</sup> doubling as flood storage. A long term monitoring programme has been set up to help identify issues, focus resources where they are most needed, and observe and evaluate the progress of techniques.

### Project partners

- Environment Agency
- Shropshire Wildlife Trust
- Telford & Wrekin Council
- Severn Trent Water
- Business Environmental Support Scheme for Telford
- Telford Green Spaces Partnership

