

Reed Bed Management East Reservoir, Hackney

Network Rail

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Small scale permanent

Project overview

On Friday the 6th of March, 18 members of the Infrastructure Projects (IP) Southern Team took a day's volunteer leave to work with the London Wildlife Trust at Stoke Newington East reservoir in Hackney. Within the East Reservoir reserve, London Wildlife Trust has created a garden space on a historic site nestled between the New River and East Reservoir in Stoke Newington.



Photo: After the enhancement had been completed

Complete with a fully equipped eco-classroom, it provides a base for school visits and a variety of community projects.

A key feature of the reservoir habitat is the reed bed, which is a rare breeding ground for reed warbler, sedge warbler and reed bunting. Also, more importantly during the winter it is visited by bittern, which is a Red List species – one of the most threatened in the UK.

As part of the reed bed management the Trust have set a four year cutting rotation, which means that every year a quarter of the reed bed is cut down.

The ultimate goal is to reverse the natural succession of the reed swamp to woodland and to promote more vigorous growth of the reed.

Because of a lack of resource, the trust was not able to complete the cutting for this year and so asked if IPS would be willing to help out with the reed bed management. Teams also helped to build pathways and footpaths during the day.

What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?

London Wildlife Trust had started the reed bed

management in 2015 but had been unable to complete due to lack of resource.

Were there any specific conditions that led to you carrying out this work?

Each member of IP Southern is allowed 5 days volunteer leave a year. Many of the staff use this to help with environmental improvements within the area.

What biodiversity measures were taken?

By volunteering at Woodberry Wetlands it will allow the trust to complete their work on time and

provide a haven for wildlife,
and people in London.

The cutting of the reedbeds
will allow more vigorous
growth and provide rare
breeding ground for reed
warbler, sedge warbler and
reed bunting. Also, more
importantly during the winter
it is visited by bittern.

Staff at Network Rail were
delighted to be helping out
with such a worthwhile
cause for a reserve that will
open to the public in late
2015. Pathways and trails
were also created
throughout the day, allowing
members of the public
access to the reserve.

**How would you best
describe the project?**
An enhancement.



Photo: Before



Photo: The staff

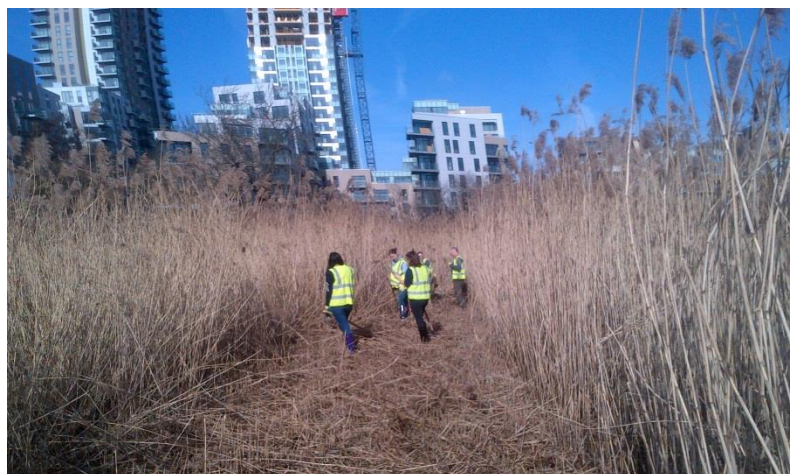


Photo: The team