

## River Friendly Severn

### Introduction

The River Friendly Severn Project engages people with measures to improve water quality in the river Severn by improving understanding and reducing pollution from a variety of sources. The project is led by the community with support from Severn Rivers Trust, which means there is local support, sustainable outcomes and good value for money.

Working in the former county of Montgomeryshire in northern Powys.

### Challenge

Water enters our rivers from a variety of sources, and will support river wildlife if it is of good quality. Clean rivers are important for recreation, for wildlife, for fishing, agriculture and for many businesses relying on clean water.

Some of the sources of river water are directly or indirectly effected by people, for example storm drains which are linked to the river could be polluted by fuel spills and more diffuse pollution occurs for example where large areas of land suffer from soil erosion.

The way in which we build on and use land also contributes to flooding of peoples' homes and businesses.

### Solution

Working in primary and secondary schools in five key river catchments in Powys, we were able to offer children a 'River Friendly Kids' Award, where they learned about water quality, farming, river invertebrates and other wildlife and worked towards making their school a 'river friendly school'. River friendly schools have installed rain gardens to hold rain water and reduce pollution into rivers. By creating rain gardens at the school, the community becomes involved through events and localised flooding is reduced.

### Benefit

There is a cost saving when communities are motivated to become involved with river projects. For example, when removing invasive Japanese Knotweed from riverbanks, by working alongside Friends of the river groups, we were able to identify its location, treat it and return to check in subsequent years. As Knotweed needs a five year management plan, there is a substantial saving here. Again, with building rain gardens, when supporting volunteers to undertake some of the building work and helping the schools to take on maintenance.

By engaging businesses in the River Friendly Business Award, we are able to show them the benefits to their business in getting involved with the local community. For example, working with Stadco, they have funded hi-vis jackets for school river days and removed a weir which was causing a problem for fish migration. We will continue to work with them in the future on river projects.

## Result

The community is really invested in the project, for example the sustainable urban drainage system at Llanfyllin High School has multiple benefits; flood management, amenity value, environmental art and education with the whole school on literature, environment issues and natural flood management.

We have supported networks of volunteers in a sustainable way, who will remove invasive species, collect river invertebrate water quality data, survey the location of Salmon redds (nests) and plant the rare Black Poplar Trees.

## Project Contact Details

For more information please contact Lisa Barlow on [lisabarlow@severnrivertrust.com](mailto:lisabarlow@severnrivertrust.com) or visit the website [www.severnrivertrust.com](http://www.severnrivertrust.com)

## Project Outputs/Outcomes

Output (Case Level Indicator)	Achieved
No. of networks established	4
No. of jobs safeguarded	1
No. Of pilot activities undertaken / supported	1
No. of stakeholders engaged	4
No. of participants supported Project Level (awareness raising events only)	961
No. of participants supported (awareness raising events only)	82
No. of communities benefitting	4
No. of businesses benefitting	13



## Partners/Match Funders

The Project has been partners or match funded by Grow in Powys, Greggs Foundation, The Peoples Postcode Lottery and Severn Trent.



Projects Details	
Delivered By	Severn Rivers Trust
Start Date	October 2016
End Date	September 2019
Leader	1: Adding value to local identity and natural and cultural resources.

Financial Details	
Total Expenditure	£120,678.14
RDP Funding	£96,459.74
Match Funding	£24,218.40

