

Lea Marston Trash Screen - Update

February 2019



Lea Marston Lakes

In June 2018 we undertook a public drop in session to inform the community of our proposals for the lakes. The feedback received from the community and our partners were positive. This newsletter is intended to provide you with a further update on how this work is progressing.

Reed beds

In March and April 2019 we will be planting reed beds around the edges of the lakes and installing 3 reed floating islands.

Lowering Water Levels

We had intended to undertake works to remove 2 weirs at the outlet of the lakes adjacent to Coton Road, which would have provided a facility for lowering water levels to the lake.

Unfortunately due to funding constraints, it is not possible to complete this work at present. We are seeking funding from other sources and should this become available, then these works may proceed.

Trash Screen

As presented at the drop-in session the current automated trash screen is now nearing the end of its design life, and there is no longer funding to maintain or replace it because it doesn't have a flood risk function. It's mainly vegetation we have to remove from the screen, however the screen does not prevent plastic bottles and the like to wash downstream.

Removing the trash screen will provide several benefits as the woody debris coming down the River Tame will help with:

- Increased scouring of the bed, promoting diversity and the improvement of spawning gravel for trout and other fish species.
- Providing shelter and food for a range of fish and invertebrate species.
- Providing protection to banks from excessive erosion.
- Increased resilience to climate change by regulating water temperature and levels.

We will remove the grabs and the screens in March 2019. After the works we will be monitoring the site and the River Tame for a period of time to ensure that there are no impacts downstream of the lakes.



Plastic Bottles

Single use plastics and litter has a major negative effect on wildlife and the environment. This issue elevated in status following Sir David Attenborough's Blue Planet programme.

While changes are required at the source to change attitudes and product packaging, there is still work that can be done to address the current litter in the environment. Plastic litter around the margins of the lakes is a big problem, which we are addressing on our site via litter picks (although it's a catchment problem).



The Year of Green Action

The Year of Green Action is part of the government's 25 year environment plan, in 2019, there are so many things you can do. You could arrange a litter pick, create a community garden to grow your own food, make water, waste and energy-saving improvements to your home or organisation, or just spend time out appreciating the beauty of the natural world by volunteering or visiting green spaces.

Throughout 2019 we want to hear all about your green action and showcase it here to inspire others to get involved.

Find out more by visiting
<https://www.yearofgreenaction.org/>

The Government's strategy 'Our Green Future' has a focus on reducing plastic waste, with an

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

aim to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste through extending the 5p plastic bag charge to small retailers, removing consumer single use plastics from the government estate, supporting the water industry to significantly increase water fountains and working with retailers on introducing plastic-free supermarket aisles.

Environment Secretary Michael Gove said:

"Respecting nature's intrinsic value and making sure we are wise stewards of our natural world is critical if we are to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it."

"Our Environment Plan sets out how over the next 25 years we will radically reduce the waste that is choking oceans and rivers, cleanse our air of toxic pollutants and create new habitats for our most precious wildlife to thrive."

We would like to support the new strategy by working with local businesses and communities to reduce plastic entering the River Tame. Therefore, we have installed cameras to monitor the amount of litter that passes through the trash screen to help us identify opportunities to reduce waste.

The strategy can be viewed here
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

Contacts

If you have any questions regarding this newsletter or would like further information, please contact us at:
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