

FORCE Press Release – March 2015

FORCE delighted with GLA funding for the Duke's River

The GLA has announced today that the Duke's River has been awarded £157,500 through its Big Green Fund. This support, to be matched by LB Richmond, LB Hounslow and others, is creating a £400,000 funding pot to improve this neglected river corridor. The award follows a public vote in which the project received 1754 votes, ranking it the third most popular project in London.

Rob Gray, Chair of FORCE, said; "We are extremely grateful to all those who voted for this project and helped to win this funding. This project is a huge opportunity to improve the environmental and community value of the Duke's River corridor and create a wonderful new asset for the two boroughs. On completion we will also have a viable circular riverside walk along the Thames, Crane and Duke's Rivers through Twickenham, Whitton, Isleworth and St Margarets."

This project is just the latest example of successful partnership working by the Crane Valley Partnership. Jean Rolfe, Chair of the Partnership said "We are delighted that our proposal has been so well received and very much wish to thank all those that voted for the project. We are very excited and can't wait to get started bringing about much needed change that will enhance the river corridor for both people and wildlife."

The Duke's River (full name Lower Duke of Northumberland's River) is an artificial channel that was created during the reign of Henry VIII and still operates today, transferring water from the River Crane at Kneller Gardens in Twickenham to the River Thames in Isleworth. This project will improve the pathway along much of the route, as well as creating new and improved river habitat for fish and water voles. Engagement with local schools and communities will help to raise the profile of this corridor as a historical and high value four kilometre green link.

Work is due to start next month for completion in 2016. FORCE will be part of a steering group helping to oversee the project which will be managed by the two boroughs.

www.force.org.uk

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The GLA's press release for the overall project is here:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/media/mayor-press-releases/2015/03/seven-green-spaces-to-be-transformed-thanks-to-londoners-show-of>

For more information please contact info@force.org.uk