

# PROPOSAL FOR EAGLESFIELD PARK

## PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Froglife is a UK wildlife charity committed to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles - working with people, enhancing lives together for a healthier planet.

Froglife's London Living Water project is focused on creating and restoring important wildlife habitats in parks and green spaces in a number of London boroughs. The activities support the London Standing Water Habitat Action Plans.

The 3.62 hectares of Eaglesfield Park is situated on the top of Shooters Hill, South East London and is managed by Greenwich Councils Parks and Open Spaces team. Froglife will work in partnership with Friends of Eaglesfield Park group, Greenwich Council Parks and Open Spaces team and Groundwork to seek funding to restore and improve biodiversity of the pond.

Believed to be a clay pit for the brick making trade, Eaglesfield pond due to damages currently cannot hold water and is in need of restoration, the proposal will be based on wildlife creation and increase biodiversity for the whole community to enjoy. If funding is secured the site will be a valuable asset for the local community.

An archaeological survey took place in the park in summer 2008 and featured in a Time Team programme. A further archaeology survey will take place this summer. The project will also include building a dipping platform and creating good terrestrial habitats in the surrounding area.

The project has three main areas:

1. Restore Eaglesfield pond to a good quality wildlife habitat
2. Improve the terrestrial habitat by increasing hibernacula and wildflower meadows
3. Create a smaller wildlife pond in the adjacent field

Funding will be secured by the Friends who will carry out all relevant consultation. Groundwork will support them through this process.

Froglife will manage the project with the input from Greenwich Council, the Friends Group and the local community.

## TIMETABLE

	<b>Description of Work</b>	<b>Start Date</b>
Phase One	Consultation Event	June 2009
Phase Two	Funding application	June 2009
Phase Three	Start work	Winter 2009
Phase Four	Planting/Launch	Spring 2010
Phase Five	Monitoring	2010

## PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME

### *Educational*

A pond is an excellent educational resource for local school children. It fits perfectly with the national curriculum to allow children to learn about different animals and plants inside and outside of the water. Learning about different life cycles such as frogs and toads, watching spawn develop into tadpoles and then into froglets, will make learning exciting and help children to learn about other pond visitors such as dragonflies laying eggs, hedgehogs and other tiny insects flying about. It teaches them the basics of ecology and conservation and how to respect other habitats and animals.

### *Adults and children*

Water promotes mental and physical wellbeing and is an asset to any green space in an urban environment. A pond will provide a focal point to the park where visitors can view, sit or walk around – taking in the water feature and its associated animals. This will increase healthy walking in the park and a great learning tool for children.

### *Biodiversity*

Ponds are a much needed habitat as many are being lost due to agricultural practices, thus the need to increase standing water in London. Water is a vital habitat for all animals especially amphibians and invertebrates to breed. The pond will increase biodiversity in the area attracting many different animals such as frogs and butterflies

### *Greenwich Habitat Action Plan*

The pond will support the new Standing Water Habitat Action Plan (SWHAP) for London, which promotes good practice within the borough.

The SWHAP encourages council and local groups to create and restore standing water in park and open spaces.

Having a water feature greatly enhances an area and therefore will attract more visitors into the park. The ponds will also support the new Greenwich Biodiversity Action Plan.

## CONTACTS

If you would like further information or to comment on the proposal please contact:

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Eaglesfield Park Friends Group ???

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