



Grant set to boost wildlife in London's waterways

Royal Bank of Canada donation will improve freshwater habitats across the capital

LONDON, 22 March 2017 - Wildlife including fish, amphibians, birds and insects has received a welcome boost today on World Water Day thanks to a £51,000 grant from Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) that will directly fund a range of habitat improvements to waterways in the capital – including locations along the rivers Colne, Crane and Wandle.

London Wildlife Trust was chosen from among hundreds of applicants from around the world to receive a 2017 grant from the RBC Blue Water Project, a historic, wide-ranging, 10-year global commitment to help protect the world's most precious natural resource: fresh water.

Over the next year Trust staff and volunteers will make practical habitat improvements at five freshwater sites; create four community-owned and wildlife-friendly Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to soak up and store rainwater runoff; and will deliver a high-quality programme to train volunteers in surveying, monitoring and specialist practical conservation work. Water quality will also be carefully monitored and mapped across the city's waterways by a range of scientific means including wildlife surveys.

This important work will help to enrich urban waterways for people and nature, encouraging people to value the wildlife-rich streams and rivers that still flow across the capital, and will help to make London itself more resilient as rainfall fluctuates with hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters.

Rosie Oldham, London Wildlife Trust grants manager, said: "We are delighted that on World Water Day we can get to work improving more of London's waterways for people and wildlife. Many thanks to Royal Bank of Canada for recognising the importance of this work with a generous grant of £51,000."

Dave Thomas, CEO, RBC Capital Markets, Europe said: "At Royal Bank of Canada, we understand the importance of helping our communities prosper. By supporting the efforts of the London Wildlife Trust in the 10th year of the RBC Blue Water Project we recognise, and applaud, their efforts to improve water quality and protect urban waterways."

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About London Wildlife Trust:

London Wildlife Trust is the only charity dedicated solely to protecting the capital's wildlife and wild spaces, engaging London's diverse communities through access to our nature reserves, campaigning, volunteering and education. Visit www.wildlondon.org.uk

The London Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales no. 1600379 and registered charity no. 283895.

About the RBC Blue Water Project:

The RBC Blue Water Project is a historic, wide-ranging, 10-year global commitment to help protect the world's most precious natural resource: fresh water. Since 2007, RBC has pledged more than C\$49 million to 770 charitable organizations worldwide that protect watersheds and promote access to clean drinking water, with an additional C\$8.8 million pledged to universities for water programs.

The RBC Blue Water Project is focused on supporting initiatives that help protect water in towns, cities, and urbanized areas. For further information, visit www.rbc.com/bluewater.

About Royal Bank of Canada:

Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) is one of the largest banks in the world and is Canada's largest bank by market capitalisation. It employs approximately 80,000 full- and part-time employees who serve more than 16 million personal, business, public sector and institutional clients in 37 countries.

RBC has a long history in Europe and has operated in the region since 1910 to serve corporate, institutional and high-net worth clients. Today, it provides a wide array of financial products and services, which are delivered by over 5,300 employees from offices in the UK, the Channel Islands, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Spain. RBC delivers financial products and services in Europe under the global brands RBC Capital Markets, RBC Wealth Management, RBC Investor & Treasury Services, RBC Global Asset Management and BlueBay Asset Management. For more information, please visit <http://www.rbc.com/>.

RBC helps communities prosper, supporting a broad range of community initiatives through donations, community investments and employee volunteer activities. For more information please see: <http://www.rbc.com/community-sustainability/>.