

## TRANSCENDING BARRIERS

## Natural solutions for the urban realm

**A new Utrecht neighborhood is benefiting from a sustainable water system providing clear and clean surface water.**

The Leidsche Rijn is the largest urban development project in the Netherlands, providing 30,000 new homes between 1997 and 2025. An integral component of the development is the sustainable, closed-circuit water system including natural wetlands, bioswales, pumping stations and permeable paving. The main goal of the project is to provide clean and clear surface water with benefits for neighbourhood quality, biodiversity and recreation. A dedicated Leidsche Rijn water system task force coordinated and implemented the infrastructure, involving Utrecht province, Utrecht municipality, Vleuten de Meern municipality and the water authority (De Stichtse Rijnlanden). This collaborative approach successfully delivered an attractive living environment, while also providing important biodiversity benefits and supporting urban climate change mitigation with minimum maintenance costs. The scale of Leidsche Rijn water system makes it a unique urban nature-based solution made possible by long-term partnership working, ambitious political targets, and experimentation.

**PROJECT**

Leidsche Rijn

**LOCATION**

Utrecht, The Netherlands

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