

What if Rivers Had Rights?

We invite all who care about Southampton's rivers to join a vital movement for Southampton's future.

Our rivers and estuaries—the Itchen, Test, and their tributaries—are under growing pressure from pollution, sewage, over-abstraction, and habitat loss. Despite existing laws, protections remain fragmented, slow, and often inaccessible to the communities who care the most.

This is why we, Southampton River Rights, have come together to ignite a city-wide conversation and a new approach: a River Rights Charter. This charter would recognise our rivers as living systems with the right to flow, to be clean, and to thrive. It would place river health at the centre of every council decision and empower local people to be a voice for our precious waterways.

Our mission is twofold. First, we are dedicated to fostering deep seated community input and stewardship that will sustain a Southampton Rights of the River Charter for generations. Second, we are committed to working together—drawing on local knowledge and lived experience—to respond to Southampton City Council's call for "genuine, ongoing community input" into [a River Charter to be formally ratified by the council in 2027](#).

If you care about cleaner water, thriving wildlife, and building a resilient city, your involvement is essential. Please join us for our next public meeting on **9th March at 19:15 in St Denys Church Hall, Dundee Road, SO17 2ND**. Together, we will explore how a Rights of the River Charter - built from the ground up by the community - can create real, lasting change for Southampton.

To find out more, visit our website, [Southampton River Rights](#), for blog posts, stories from local advocates, and updates on how to get involved. There you'll also find a Google form to share your thoughts or join our mailing list or simply click on the QR code below.

