

Kjelle Meadow Wetland

Naturbased solutions, research and education



Kjelle Meadow Wetland: How to inspire future generations to protect our waters, soil, forests, and biodiversity. A place for inspiration and professional development for every level of knowledge and age.

The Kjelle Meadow Wetland is a beautiful newly constructed wetland, located at the village of Bjørkelangen in the municipality of Aurskog-Høland, Norway and in close connection with Kjelle Upper Secondary School. The area has previously been used for cereal production, before to wet to properly managed, turned in to grazeland for cattle and sheep.

The vision for Kjelle Meadow Wetland is to become a source of inspiration and a driving force for future generations, nurturing a deep appreciation for the vital importance of protecting our shared natural environment. It aims to promote the sustainable management of water, soil, and forests, and supporting biodiversity. Our ambition is also to establish ourselves as a center of inventive science and a knowledge arena for both the general public and for other schools and institutions.

The wetland has been created on the school grounds and has therefore had an active involvement of the student body, from several different classes. The aim is to further involve the students in the management and maintenance of nature-based solutions and restoration of nature.

This wetland has been subject to extensive restoration and expansion during 2024–2026. Future goals is to develop the site into a hub of expertise for local and regional development in nature-based water management solutions and the enhancement of biodiversity, both within the student body and through cooperation with researchers, public management and other stakeholders.

Since the area has now been created, and is not in any ways a protected nature reserve, we hope to develop the area to be an important site for research, knowledge building and data site.



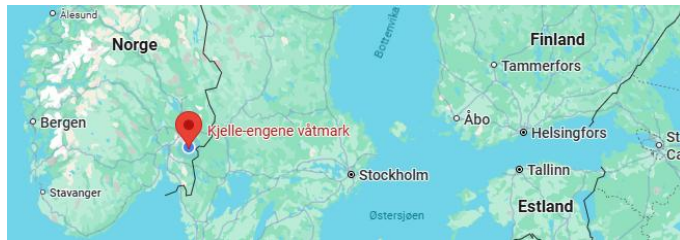
Data

Through the river basin sub-district who survey and gather data for the area, we have established three data sampling sites in association with the area, gathering data on nutrient and sediment flow in the associated river and lake. As the last parts of the wetland is established, such as a flood water tunnel into the area and an outlet which can be adjustable to keep a suitable water level during the season, we will add sampling sites in these in- and outlets and within the area. The aim is to look at possible changes in the nutrient and sediment flow downstream of the newly established wetland.

Before the establishment we have gathered data on vegetation, insects and amphibians, in addition to samplings of invertebrates and fish in the river running past the area. With a cooperation with RØSK, a newly established students union for ecologists with the interest of nature restoration we have gathered plants and vegetation that has been planted on the area to promote local flora. During this a mapping of invasive species and an evaluation of this has also been done.

With cooperation with other research institutes the full process of policy and regulations needed before establishing the area has been gathered with both documents and interviews; to assure we could evaluate the entire process from idea to result.

With the creation of paths and signs for visitors, the aim is to collect data also from these new stakeholders that decide to visit the wetland.



Kjelle Meadow Wetland is situated in southeastern part of Norway.

Partnerships

Kjelle Meadow Wetland is partners in projects on nature-based solutions for water quality, habitat restoration, environmental education for children and youth, and managing agricultural and forestry runoff.

Through research and exploration, and by equipping the next generation with quality science education, we aim to restore and nurture a healthy, vibrant, and naturally thriving environment.

Kjelle Meadow wetland, might be small but important part of our future, and possibly Norways largest constructed wetland. We believe it to hold great potential for research and to be an inspiration to others.



Kjelle Meadow Wetland – a place for both future generations and research institutions.

Stakeholder and involved parties

Being established on school grounds, the students have been involved in mapping before and learning about the wetland through the project. However, the aim is also to involve more schools, different age groups and students in the area in different ways.

In the project group the school has had participation together with the municipality of Aurskog-Høland and the Halden river basin sub-district. In addition through research programmes we have had the involvement of NIBIO (Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research), NIVA (Norwegian Institute for Water Research), NINA (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research) and NMBU (Norwegian University of Life Sciences).

The area has also been doing involvement of volunteers, such as interest organisations for different species. The school also does active agricultural on their areas around the school, where involvement and check-ins with neighbouring farmers and other stakeholders have been important and essential to getting the area approved with the municipality.

