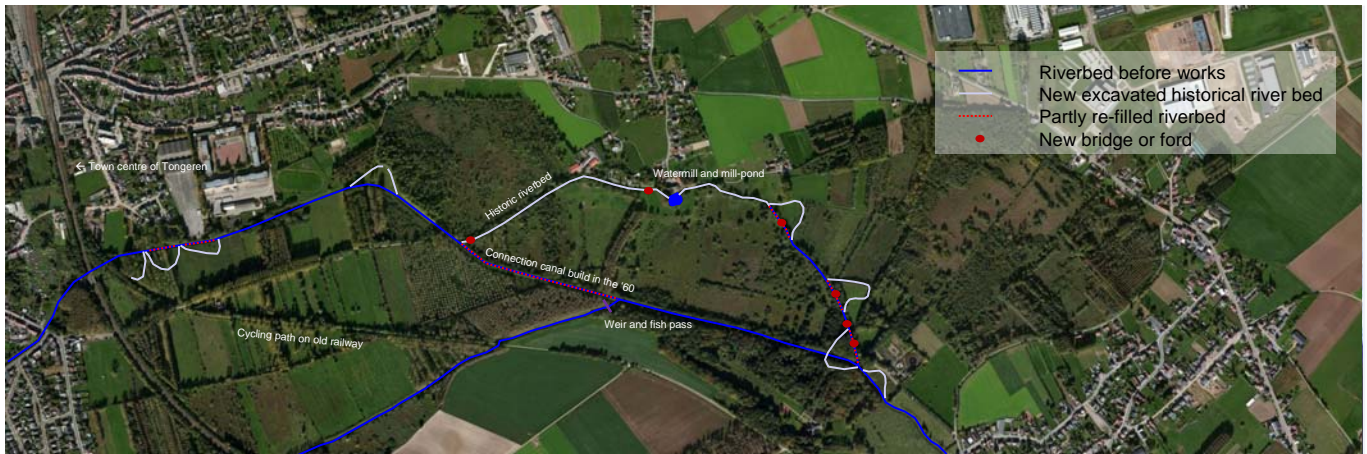


# River restoration project of the river Jeker in Belgium

## Restoring a river and bringing water to the mill

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10 years ago the River Jeker near the Belgian city of Tongeren was known as a dirty river, without ecological value. Today the Jeker is a river where fish and other species find new opportunities and habitats. Water quality has improved thanks to investments in the sewage system and in river restoration. Royal HaskoningDHV was the designer of the river restoration project, and led the modeling of the river and the EIA. In the sixties the Jeker was straightened, with desiccation in the local nature reserve and flooding downstream as a result. A historic watermill was even cut off from water. Now the historic riverbed is restored, and the watermill is powered by water again. The river is 2km longer now and recreates a wet valley for fauna and flora in the nature reserve.

The project includes:

- Re-meandering
- Re-opening the historic river bed
- Investments in the sewage system
- Fish migration
- Flood management
- Habitat creation and improvements
- Restoration of a watermill and its sluice
- 3 New bridges and 3 fords over the river
- Stakeholder management between landowners, nature trust, watermill organisation, city council,...



What started as a project facing a lot of skepticism and opposition has now become a beautiful blue and green pearl next to the oldest city of Belgium.

The project is partly funded by the European Aquadra and interreg projects where the Flemish, Dutch and Walloon government work together on cross-border projects.

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