



Warren Farm Nature Reserve, one of our
Ten New Parks @WarrenFarmNR

Forever green?

London's parks continue to come under threat, but your local councillors can change this and the local elections on 5 May are fast approaching

Why are London's parks still under threat?

CPRE London is contacted on a weekly basis about precious green spaces under threat from development proposals. Our current case work covers a range of pressures including dereliction and neglect, estate regeneration, development of schools and the building of exclusive and private facilities on public sports grounds.

How can you help your local green spaces?

Your borough councillors have the power to stand up for green spaces in your local area. Find out the candidates for your area on Thursday 5 May [here](#) and urge them to:

Turn at least 30 streets into parks. Create more parks by converting 'grey space' into 'streetparks'.

Ensure estate 'infill' schemes don't leave residents with inadequate green space. If necessary, create more green and communal open space by redeploying 'grey space' currently given to car parking and roads.

Identify derelict and neglected green spaces and work with the community to bring them back into use.

Invest in and promote parks, so they are well maintained, improved, and valued including by supporting the formation of more local Park Friends Groups.

Protect our parks and green spaces. Do not commercialise parks and green spaces, either to raise money or benefit exclusive interests, and respect covenants on public amenity land.

Protect Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land and ensure new housing is built on brownfield sites. Don't justify loss of green space by citing the need for homes, schools, or other development that can be accommodated on previously developed land.

Support Green Space For All!

Our Winter Appeal is help us promote our achievable plan to protect green space and reduce unequal access to them. We are already getting results by working with our partners to: establish 'pocket parks', create [Ten Major New Parks](#), help parks friends groups, promote our [GoParksLondon](#) project and support local groups campaigning to save green spaces from development.

We cannot continue this vital work without your support. Please [donate](#) today and help make London a city with Green Space for All.



A view from the Board...and a new volunteer

Tony Burton looks ahead to a year packed with campaigns and events across London

Welcome to 2022. We're all looking forward to it being very different and CPRE London will be working hard to protect the green spaces the lockdowns have demonstrated are so important to Londoners.

Expect to see us publish a major report calling out the threat our green spaces face from new development, and we will also be highlighting the vast areas of poorly used industrial land and car parks which provide better places to build.

We will be raising the stakes during London's local elections in May and working with other environmental and transport groups to keep green issues high on the local political agenda.

Through events such as the Urban Tree Festival and London Rivers Week we have been celebrating London's countryside more and more. In 2022 we plan to turn this into practical action by supporting hedgerow planting in different neighbourhoods and the growth of a new urban forest in parts of the Green Belt.

Our campaign for Ten New Parks will see more success and we're looking to the Mayor to expand the Walk London network beyond the delights of the Capital Ring and London Loop to include the Wandle Trail and new routes.

2022 will also be the year when we say farewell and thank you to Neil Sinden as our Director. Neil retires in a few months after 5 years at the helm. He has made an outstanding contribution and will be a hard act to follow. We're recruiting for a new Director so do spread the word. Details can be found on our [website](#).



We welcome Fiona Torreno to the team as our new volunteer Website Manager

What areas of our work are you looking forward to being involved in?

I'm curious to develop my understanding of CPRE's digital audience, particularly their affiliation to our cause and their interests in our content and activities. I'm looking forward to working with the wider team on the many innovative ways we can optimise the website.



Which new green spaces are you excited to visit in 2022?

I hope this year will bring hiking in Epping Forest, discovering Snowdonia National Park or visiting Cotswolds villages and the surrounding area.

What does living sustainably mean to you?

To me, sustainable living is a lifestyle that supports the reduction of personal and societal environmental impact. I've been supported by my local council to recycle, use compost, and switch to cycling or walking.

Do you have a favourite walking route in London?

The river path from Tower Bridge to Embankment is one of my favourite walking routes. The sounds of the birds, the absence of traffic, the view, the sunrise, or the morning fog makes the place quite unique and ideal to unwind.

Rural Rides to Epping Forest

The sun shone down our most recent outing with the Magpie Project

Our programme of trips to Epping Forest with mums and toddlers from the Magpie Project, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, concluded in November with a visit to Wanstead Park. We enjoyed unseasonably warm and sunny weather and a variety of autumn themed activities including creative play with leaves and guided walks with Mr Mushroom and the Forest Fairy organised by our partner the Epping Forest Heritage Trust.



Working with migrant and refugee women and children from the Magpie Project has taught us a lot about engaging with disadvantaged groups and has informed CPRE's approach to making the countryside more inclusive and open to all.



#PictureBlueLondon

The winning images a shed light on the importance of capital's rivers and waterways

In October, we invited Londoners to snap the capital's waterscapes as part of London Rivers Week in collaboration with Thames 21, the Environment Agency, ZSL London Zoo and the London Aquarium. All entries reflected the themes of climate change, access to nature and health and wellbeing.

We were astounded by the quality and variety of images that capture London's waterways brimming with greenery, wildlife, and community.

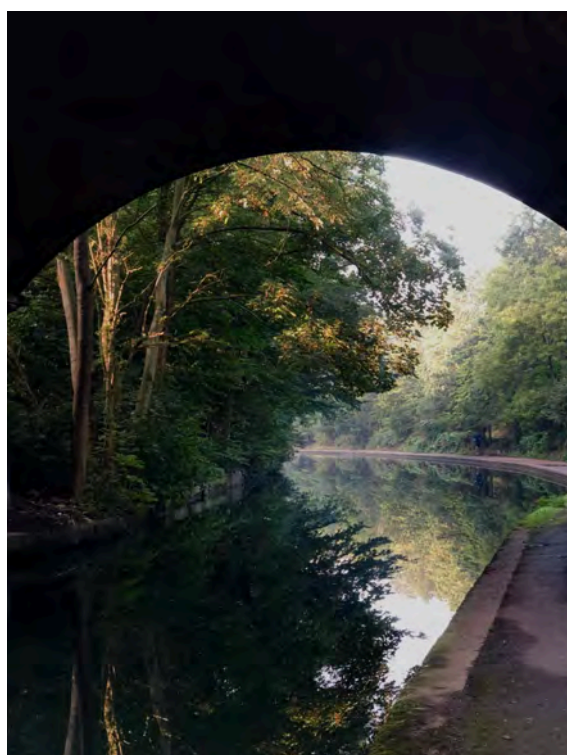
The photographs were judged by Shirley Rodrigues (Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Greater London Authority), Dave Webb (Environment Agency) and Peter Coles (professional photographer and urban ecologist).

Congratulations to the winners who will each receive a prize of £100, free membership to CPRE London and tickets to the London Aquarium where the images will be displayed for the next few months.

Thank you to all who entered. Check out the comments from the judges and photographers on our [website](#) and keep your eyes peeled for our 2022 photography competition.



'Warning sign' Thames Path by Dela Anderson, Climate change



'Light at the end of the tunnel' Regents Canal, by Olivia Jones, Access to nature



'Family time exploring the Thames shoreline' Greenwich, by Karin Tearle, Health and wellbeing



Above: A walk along the Ravensbourne by Dan Curry

In the footsteps of John Ruskin

Rediscover the thinking of the acclaimed writer who was a major influence on the early environmental movement

We have been working closely with the Camberwell Society who have been planning an imaginative tree walk in Ruskin Park, close to the site of John Ruskin's former London home. The walk is punctuated with staging posts which each provide the opportunity to reflect on the breadth of Ruskin's writing and thinking about the environment – including urbanisation, pollution, and rural regeneration. A launch event is being planned for early March to coincide with the blossoming of a group of almond trees in the park. For more details keep an eye on our [website](#).



For your 2022 diary

Dates to support and celebrate London's countryside

2 February: Discover London's many waterways on World Wetlands Day.

26 February–6 March: Help us identify the country's - and London's - darkest skies with CPRE's Star Count.

4–10 April: Get your spades out for Community Garden Week!

May: Discover London's green chain and river walks throughout National Walking Month.

5 May: London local elections - find your local candidate [here](#).

19 May: CPRE London's AGM

14-22 May: Urban Tree Festival

6-11 June: Get back to nature with Garden Wildlife Week 2022 and London's Square Open Gardens Weekend (11-12th) when you can visit the capital's hidden green gems.

11-17 July: London Rivers Week

July: Hate litter? Sign up to the Plastic Free July challenge and enjoy Keep Britain Tidy's Love Parks Week (23rd-31st).

December: the Ramblers Annual Festival of Winter Walks will take place over Christmas and New Year – a great way to bring 2022 to its natural conclusion.



British Medical Association gardens open to the public during London Open Garden Weekend Credit: Anna Barclay

Thanks to our members, supporters and partners for helping us to make our city greener

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The countryside charity
London

Working for a greener city