



The Edgelands on the River Roding by Noel Moka

Roads to regeneration

The start of the year saw the launch of our Ten New Parks campaign

We are pleased to be working in partnership with local campaigning groups across London who are giving a voice to forgotten open spaces that are sitting idle or are at risk from development. The campaign has made good progress since the launch in January.

The River Roding Trust is campaigning to transform post-industrial, derelict wetlands into a new riverside park, The Edgelands, that will connect Epping Forest with the River Thames. The Brent River & Canal Society is urging the council to grant Warren Farm nature reserve status. The Friends of Quaggy Playing Fields are developing a campaign to keep the Quaggy River Playing Fields safe from developers, ensuring that these fields continue to serve surrounding communities as a space for recreation and relaxation.

The inspiring stories of these spaces are galvanising national support for the natural and cultural heritage of our city. The Telegraph and BBC London have spotlighted the railway banks of Lewisham Grove Park that inspired Edith Nesbit's *The Railway Children* and are set to become the new *Railway Children's Park*.

The Mayor of London and relevant borough councils can stop the cycle of decline by pledging to protect these areas from development and rejuvenate them for their local communities. To keep driving momentum we're asking Londoners to write to Mayoral candidates for support and to keep up to date with the local campaign activity on our website cprelondon.org.uk.

We've identified the potential to create eight new parks for London with two more coming soon. Are you frustrated at seeing a green space near you neglected, derelict or simply not used? Please contact alice@cprelondon.org.uk, to see if it could become one of our new parks.

We're hugely grateful for the continued support for this campaign, including generous financial contributions, from our members and supporters. We welcome any support you are able to give to help us reach our funding target, you can donate to our appeal here: cprelondon.org.uk/news/annual-fundraising-appeal-ten-new-green-spaces-for-london/

'From Grey to Green' – repurposing London's streets

Our 2021 panel discussion and AGM will take place online on 20th May from 6-8pm with a panel discussion - details overleaf.

PLEASE COME ALONG AND SHARE YOUR IDEAS.

A view from the board

CPRE London's Chair, Tony Burton, comments on our latest news and future projects:

Nature and green space have shown just how important they are over the last year and CPRE London is speaking up for their future.

We have called for Ten New Parks to be created across the capital. Our work with local communities has already identified eight locations and following the launch of the campaign we've had many more suggested.

After years of effort, we've secured some improvements to the new London Plan just published by the Mayor. The Plan is already being lined up for a review that may put a development spotlight on London's precious Green Belt, and we're gearing up with fresh evidence that there's space to build on brownfield sites without urban sprawl.

The candidates to be London's Mayor after the May elections will be in no doubt about where we stand, following publication of our Mayoral manifesto co-ordinated with twenty other green groups.



London's countryside and green space is a necessity for everyone and with new support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund we're pleased to be running a new project providing visits to Epping Forest for vulnerable mums and toddlers who use the Magpie Project in Newham.

Looking ahead to May, we will be celebrating London's magnificent trees and woodlands with the Urban Tree Festival which also includes our Annual Meeting. Do come along (virtually) and hear more about what CPRE London is up to and how to get involved.

We're delighted to welcome Emma Bould as our newest Trustee at CPRE London:

"I am passionate about protecting rural spaces and places, and ensuring equal access for all. Having worked at Alzheimer's Society helping organisations to make their services accessible, I am looking forward to supporting CPRE London to do the same, and help raise awareness of the most beautiful natural places across London.



I am excited to take part in the Urban Tree Festival in May and to support the next steps with our Ten New Parks campaign calling for more public spaces for Londoners."

Turning London 'From Grey to Green'

Repurposing our streets to make better use of space previously used for roads and parking. Join us online for our panel discussion and AGM on Thursday 20th May from 6-8pm.

From parklets and play spaces, to community gardens and "streateries" - how can we make better use of space previously used for roads and parking?

It has never been more important to reclaim lifeless, underused grey space that could be transformed into revitalised spaces for recreation. Street parking alone in London takes up the equivalent of ten Hyde Parks.

With the Mayor's target of 80% of journeys to be made by sustainable modes by 2040, we have the opportunity to make better use of the space no longer needed for cars.

Please come and share your ideas for how we can turn our city 'From Grey to Green', with presentations by CPRE London's Head of Campaigns, Alice Roberts, a representative from the Greater London Authority on its new research on 'repurposing streets', and local community activists to show us what is possible!

The panel discussion will follow the formal business of CPRE London's AGM.

**You can sign-up here: cprelondon.org.uk/news/agm2021/
This is an event not to be missed!**



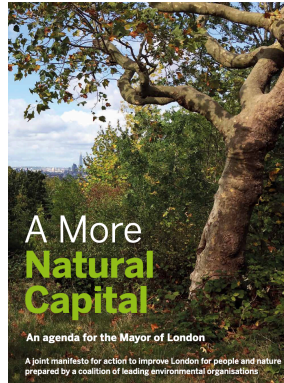
Securing a 'More Natural Capital'

A landmark campaign to place nature and climate top of the agenda at the upcoming Mayoral and Assembly elections

CPRE London has been leading a coalition of over 20 environmental groups to press Mayoral and Assembly candidates to commit to a 'More Natural Capital.'

The London Mayoral Environment Debate on the 21st April is set to spark a lively discussion of the policies of the Mayoral candidates for nature, climate and health.

Over 700 people are expected to attend the live event organised by the More Natural Capital coalition convened by CPRE London. Environmentalist and TV presenter, Julia Bradbury, is to chair what should be a captivating discussion of a range of issues including how best to reduce pollution and waste, help mitigate and adapt to climate change, and improve public health and wellbeing.



A New London Plan

The new London Plan was formally adopted by the Mayor of London in March

CPRE London played a prominent role at the public examination of the draft Plan in 2019, arguing for stronger protection for the Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land (MOL), alongside more effective policies to promote the sensitive reuse of previously developed land.



We identified ways in which the Plan could be strengthened to achieve these aims and countered arguments put forward by developers who want to build on our precious green spaces.

We were alarmed and disappointed when the Panel of Inspectors appointed by the Government proposed a weakening of Green Belt protection in their report on the draft Plan. We wrote to the Secretary of State to raise our concerns and to stress the vital role that the Green Belt plays as London's 'climate safety belt', by restricting the spread of car-dependent urban sprawl and providing opportunities for tree planting, as well as access to the countryside next door.

We are reassured that the final Plan retains strong policies to protect the Green Belt and MOL. We will be monitoring closely how this is implemented on the ground by borough councils in their Local Plan reviews and seeking to influence any subsequent review of Green Belt boundaries.

More details of our work on the London Plan, including our five priority areas for action, can be found on our website at: cprelondon.org.uk/news/public-examination-of-the-draft-london-plan/



The virtual hustings will give London's voters an opportunity to pose their questions to the Mayoral candidates on environmental issues that matter to them.

For information on our shared vision for a Greener London, please read the joint 'More Natural Capital' manifesto on our website: cprelondon.org.uk/news/an-agenda-for-the-next-mayor-of-london/



Photo credits from top-right clockwise: Greater London Authority, St John Priory Clerkenwell by Neil Sinden, Julia Bradbury by David Venni.

The sky's the limit

Simple steps to reduce light pollution for more starry nights

Close your eyes and picture an inky black night sky accented with moon-washed stars. It is a rare sight to behold in the heart of the city, but one we believe all Londoners should be able to experience.

In February, we asked you to count the stars and help with a cosmic census to tackle light pollution and encourage local councils to take action. An incredible 7,845 counts were submitted - our biggest year yet! Just over half of participants counted ten stars or fewer, compared with 61% in 2020, which suggests that light pollution is improving in London. Check out our interactive map to find the darkest spot near you: cpre.org.uk/dark-skies/star-count-2021/

Our manifesto to rediscover the night was launched during International Dark Sky week in April. Together with the Dark Sky London initiative we've produced some materials that illuminate the issue of light pollution in London: an [introduction to light pollution](#), a [ten-point action plan](#) to protect London's night sky and a [guide to lighting design](#) to help you take action. Ahead of this year's Mayoral elections, we have been campaigning as part of the 'More Natural Capital' coalition to persuade candidates to develop best practice guidance for lighting design to reduce light pollution.

The Urban Tree Festival returns

Celebrating trees and woods in the city

Spring is in full swing and we're all feeling revitalised at the sight of London's trees in leaf and blossom. The Urban Tree Festival is back to celebrate the magnificence of urban trees, taking place mainly online from the 15-23rd May. The programme is packed with interactive and creative activities, engaging seminars, and fascinating online resources that will remain accessible throughout the festival and beyond.

Once again, CPRE London is proud to be organising a daily Tree Rings webinar series and we're looking forward to taking part in lively discussions with an international audience. Last year when time seemed to stand still, our many urban trees marked the seasons, lifting our spirits and providing considerable comfort. It's time to shine the spotlight once again on London's trees and learn how we can celebrate and safeguard them for future generations.

Find out about the programme and booking arrangements at urbantreefestival.org/



Clapham Common by Kate Reynolds

With thanks to our members, supporters and partners for helping us create a greener city

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