

Consolidated proposals by sub-area

Area 2 Proposals

The Three Marshes:
Walthamstow, Leyton
and Hackney

Lee Valley Regional Park

Park Development Framework

The Three Marshes: Walthamstow, Leyton and Hackney

Guide to Sub-areas

To be read in conjunction with the
Area 2 Proposals Thematic Drawings

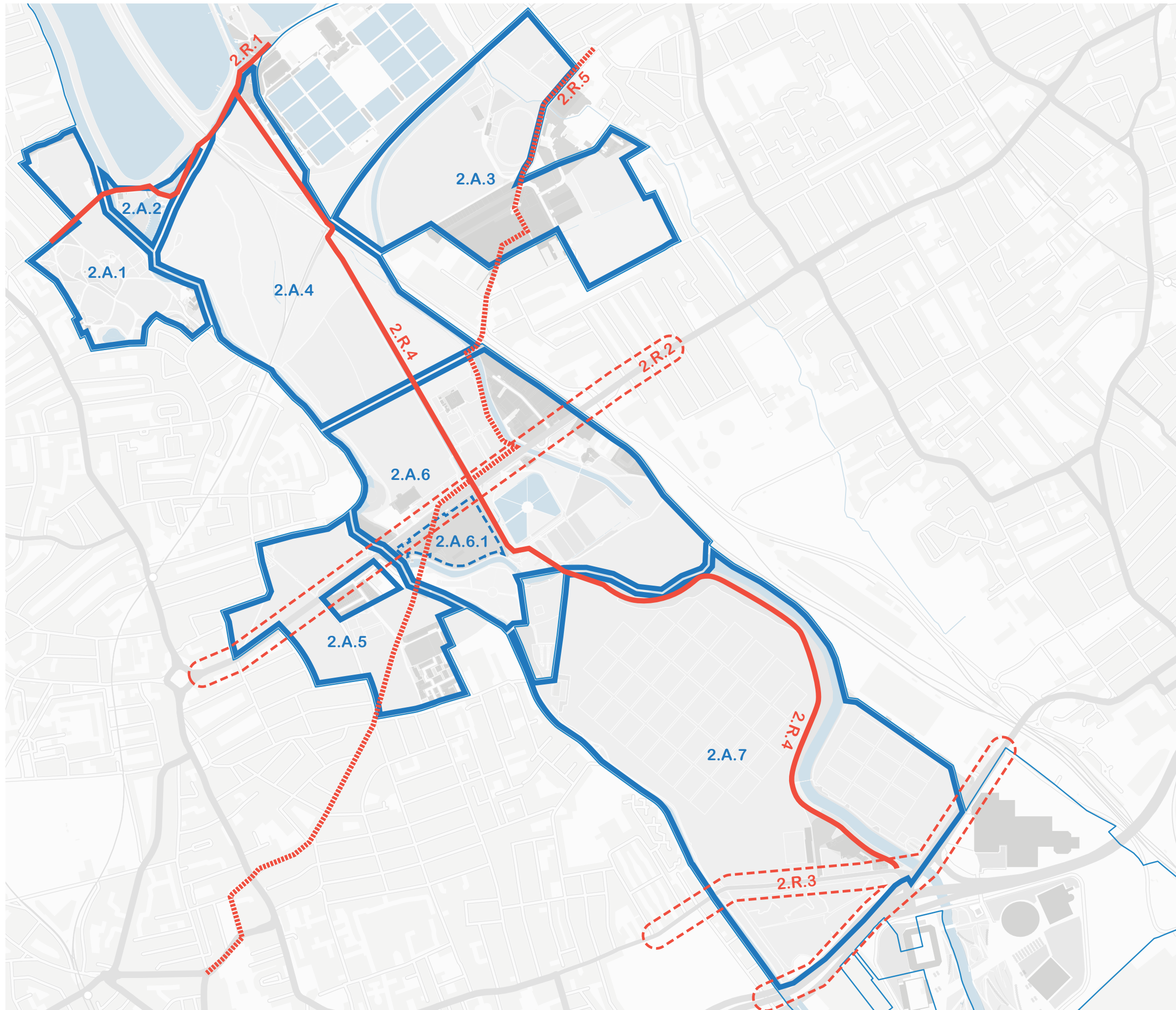


Areas

- 2.A.1** Springhill and Springfield Park
- 2.A.2** Springfield Marina
- 2.A.3** Low Hall and St James' Park
- 2.A.4** Walthamstow Marsh and Coppermill Fields
- 2.A.5** North and South Millfields
- 2.A.6** Lea Bridge Road area
 - 2.A.6.1** Thames Water Depot
- 2.A.7** Hackney Marsh

Routes

- 2.R.1** Coppermill Lane
- 2.R.2** Lea Bridge Road
- 2.R.3** Homerton Road and Ruckholt Road
- 2.R.4** Lee Valley Pathway
- 2.R.5** Black Path



0m 100m 300m 600m
1:12,500 at A3

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2.A.1 Springhill and Springfield Park



Visitors

Enhance visitor facilities within the area based around the existing cluster of sites adjacent to the River Lea and Springfield Marina. Work with the London Borough of Hackney to improve the quality of pedestrian and cycle access into the area from the west, and beyond the Park boundaries and establish clearly signed links through to the path networks and open spaces of the wider Regional Park including to the Walthamstow Wetlands area immediately to the north. Interpretation of ecology and heritage assets should form part of improved visitor infrastructure.

Sport and Recreation

Protect opportunities for sporting and recreational use and activity within the area, in particular the enhancement of sports facilities at Springhill sports ground.

Work with and support the operators of water based facilities at Lea Rowing Club and Leaside Canoe Centre together with British Waterways to identify measures to increase levels of public accessibility and participation. Opportunities to create a formal canoe trail down the Lee should be considered linking through into other areas of the Park and the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Explore opportunities to increase playable space in the area.

Biodiversity

Work with the London Borough of Hackney to protect and manage Springfield Park's ecological value and support its role as an important urban wildlife habitat with full public access.

Landscape and Heritage

Support the conservation and enhancement of the mature landscape and the continued protection of important features of historic and geological interest including the restoration and rehabilitation of heritage assets such as the White Lodge where these can contribute to visitor enjoyment.

Views out across the Regional Park to be protected and the residential areas along the northern boundary screened.

2.A.2 Springfield Marina



Visitors

Establish a waterside focal point for visitors at Springfield Marina by broadening the range of leisure facilities and enhancing visitor provision; to include signage and information about the Park, toilets, food and drink, shelter, staff presence, etc. Any proposal for new development should seek to open up the marina to visitors as well as boat owners and should respect its waterside location, the peaceful character of the area and the ecological value of the waterways and their margins.

Encourage good boating management through enhanced visitor infrastructure and signage for boaters.

Sport and Recreation

Identify market interest in enhancing the leisure offer at the Marina and opportunities for additional infrastructure to support recreational boating.

Biodiversity

Work with British Waterways and the Environment Agency to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the waterways and their margins/banks to complement and act as a buffer for the adjoining designated sites to the north and south.

Community

Develop this area as a 'gateway' into the Regional Park with improved access and circular routes connecting through into the broader valley.

Landscape and Heritage

Conserve and enhance the mature landscape and views to and from the valley to the surrounding urban area.

Environment

Work with the Environment Agency to improve water quality at the Marina.

2.A.3 Low Hall and St James' Park



Visitors

Enhance the quality and safety of existing pedestrian and cycle routes into the Park from the east.

Work with the London Borough of Waltham Forest, the Environment Agency and other stakeholders to develop, maintain and sign connecting routes for pedestrians and cyclists between sites and through existing industrial areas in order to re-connect St James's Park and the Low Hall area with the Park and improve the provision of facilities for visitors.

Improve the existing bridge crossings over the flood relief channel and provide a new path across the dismantled railway land at Hall Farm Curve to link Low Hall Playing Fields with the wider Walthamstow Marsh area. In the event of the reinstatement of a railway track at Hall Farm Curve a means of access across this track will need to be secured.

Establish links to heritage assets outside the Park such as the Walthamstow Pump House Museum to strengthen leisure interest in the area.

Sport and Recreation

Work with the London Borough of Waltham Forest to protect the good quality sports and recreational facilities at St James' Park and Low Hall sports ground and investigate the potential to enhance their regional value.

Biodiversity

Work in partnership to create new habitat margins around the Low Hall sports ground and safeguard existing ecological values at Low Hall Farm Flood Meadow, to be managed as a nature reserve with controlled public access.

Engage with the Environment Agency on options to identify and implement measures to improve biodiversity of the Flood Relief Channel.

Support the enhancement and management of other sites of ecological value and potential including Low Hall woodland, the Dagenham Brook corridor and land between the railway lines and Low Hall Sports Ground with new pedestrian links established between and from these sites through to adjoining areas of nature conservation importance.

Landscape and Heritage

Improve the landscape quality throughout this area with particular attention focused on the management of the woodland between St James's Park and Low Hall Playing Fields.

Improve the screening of housing and industry within and adjoining the Park in order to maximise its green edge and establish buffer strips.

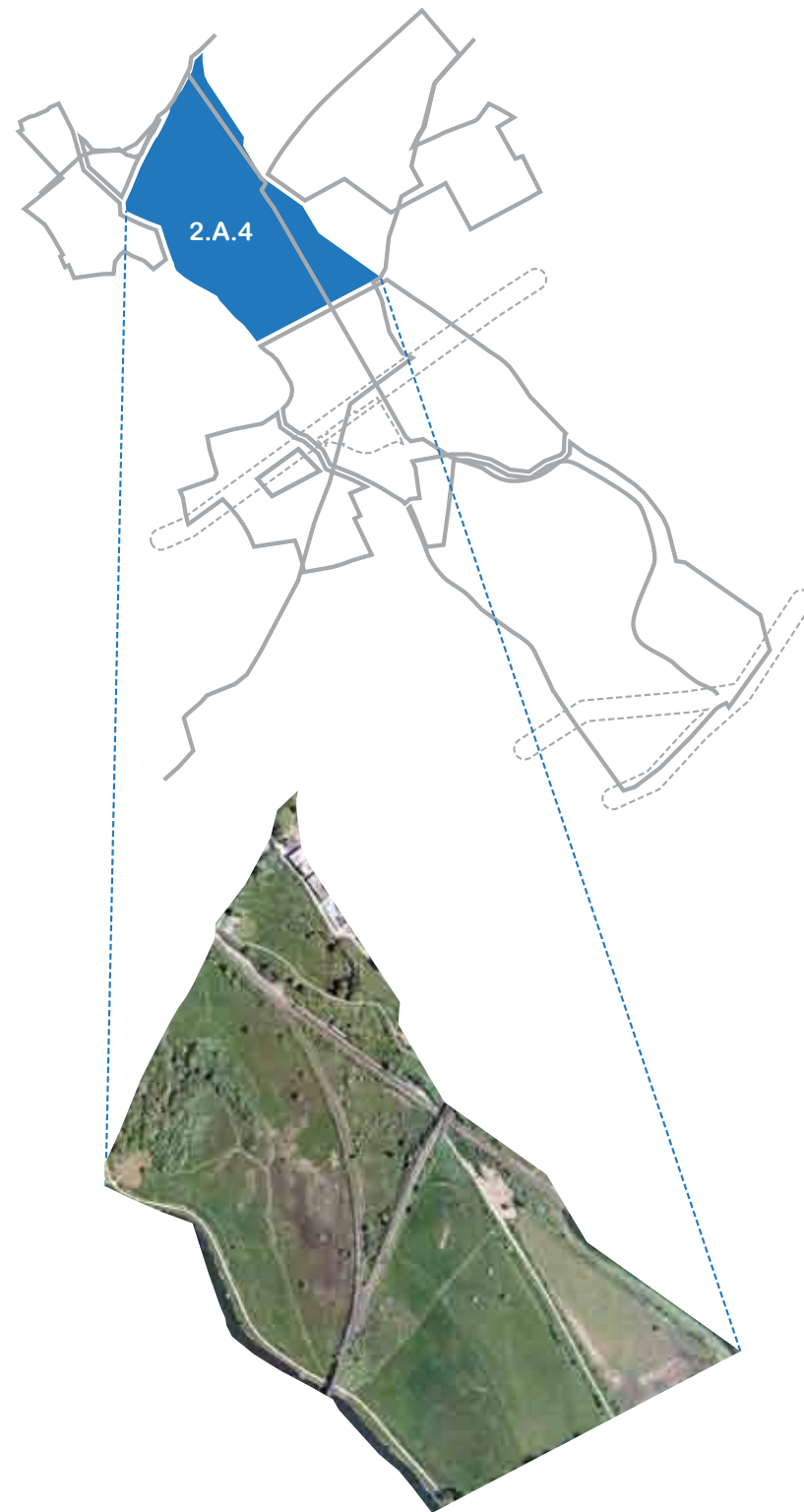
Explore options with the Environment Agency to improve the landscape value of the Flood Relief Channel.

Environment

Support the London Borough of Waltham Forest in management of recreational allotments and community gardens. Facilities at allotments to be maintained to a high standard and special attention focused on improving the edges of plots and boundaries shared with the Park.

Opportunities to open up pedestrian access alongside the Flood Relief Channel to be explored with the Environment Agency.

2.A.4 Walthamstow Marsh and Coppermills Fields



Visitors

Safeguard the openness of this area and enhance existing route networks to maintain the established link between clusters of facilities at Springfield Park and Marina, Lea Bridge Road and beyond to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Sport and Recreation

Maintain the area as a space for informal leisure. Work with landowners to increase the area of open space available for informal leisure within and to the south of Coppermills Fields.

Enhance and maintain existing horse riding routes especially on land to the north of the Riding Centre.

Biodiversity

Protect, restore and manage the mix of floodplain grassland and fen and small open water areas within Walthamstow Marsh Nature Reserve and SSSI to enhance its ecological value.

Working in partnership with landowners manage sites outside the Reserve to enhance their ecological values and contribution to the biodiversity.

Measures to improve public access for nature conservation, educational and heritage interests will be developed further to support the development of this area together with other sites nearby (2.A.6) as a flagship 'access to nature' destination.

Community

Support volunteer activity on Walthamstow Marshes as part of the management and enhancement of the Marshes, its biodiversity value and related educational role.

Target 'hard to reach' groups through the volunteer programme in this area, working with key stakeholders such as the London Boroughs of Waltham Forest and Hackney

Landscape and Heritage

Protect and enhance the positive and natural characteristics of the landscape, including the openness of the valley and its heritage features.

Strengthen landscape quality in the north at Coppermill Fields and along the eastern edge of the area, work with landowners to rationalise the varied infrastructure that creates both physical and visual barriers to include the removal or relocation of fences where these unnecessarily restrict access.

Improve the quality and accessibility of pedestrian and cycle routes into the Marshes.

Protect and promote the history of the Marsh and associated heritage assets within the area through interpretational guides and signage, trails and links though to other sites of heritage value for example at Springfield, Coppermills Water Treatment works, and at the Walthamstow Pump House.

Environment

Work with partners including the Environment Agency to:

- Improve water quality and water management particularly in relation to enhancing and maintaining floodplain, grassland and fen habitats on Walthamstow Marsh and to help meet the targets of the Thames River Basin Management Plan
- Identify and implement measures to improve the biodiversity value of the Flood Relief Channel, opportunities to open up pedestrian access alongside and crossing points over the channel and into the Park whilst maintaining its role in managing flood risk
- Research options for using the Marshes to help manage flood risk and provide additional flood storage capacity where this will improve site resilience to climate change and also benefit and enhance ecological value and SSSI status of the site.