

# Beckton Parks Community Vision



A playbook for the future of Beckton Parks



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## A foreword by Councillor Asser...

Beckton is blessed with plenty of open spaces and parks that make it the green lung of Newham; which we know is well used and well loved. The Beckton Parks Masterplan was launched to find ways that we could enhance that greenspace, to improve the facilities and create a network of parks that will serve the community for years to come.

It has been fantastic to see the engagement of so many local people, bringing forward suggestions and exciting ideas. The Council is ambitious for the area and the opportunities it can offer people of all ages but especially for families and children.

The last few years have highlighted how important parks and open spaces are for health and welfare. This plan is a community vision, a vision of a greener future with nature and open space at its heart. In partnership with the residents, community groups, schools, faith organisations and all those working and living in our borough we aim to deliver this plan to enhance Beckton and the wider area, and to create something exciting for the generations to come.



## Project info

Between January and July 2022, Street Space have been working alongside Newham Council to engage with local communities to shape the future of Beckton Parks. The engagement programme is the first step towards the creation of the Beckton Parks Masterplan, a vision for 36 hectares of green space between the wards of Beckton and Custom House - including Beckton District Park (North and South), New Beckton Park, Beckton Corridor, King George V Park and Newham City Farm Site.

## Project expertise

Street Space is a social enterprise working with people to re-imagine their streets and spaces to make them feel safer, to bring joy and to forge social connection. We strive to create opportunities for authentic participation, enabling local people to play an active role in the creation of spaces where they feel they belong.

## Context

Beckton Parks are the largest local authority managed green space in Newham. The parks are a much loved community asset, and have enormous potential to improve the health and well-being of Newham residents. This includes new and improved sports, leisure and cultural opportunities, scope for improving existing facilities and re-purposing areas to better meet local needs.

The creation of a masterplan for Beckton Parks is a long-term strategic programme spread across several phases. The views that we have gathered within this playbook will form the community-led vision for the future of Beckton Parks, the first-step in a programme of community engagement and consultation. These views will create the foundations for the masterplan and will provide a starting point from which designs can develop, including the future use of facilities that are currently underutilised or not currently accessible to the public.

## Headline Statistics

Between January and June 2022 Street Space have:

- Organised **16 in-person events** and spoken to **546 members of the public** face-to-face!
- Gathered the contact details of **680 local people** who are interested in shaping the future of Beckton Parks
- Engaged with **20 local community organisations**
- **Hired a young local engagement producer** to be embedded as part of the Street Space team - informing our engagement approach
- **Invested more than £7,500 in local individuals, groups and businesses** to share and test their ideas for the future of Beckton Parks

## How to use this playbook

This playbook has been created by Street Space to reflect the wide range of conversations we have had with local stakeholders between January and June of 2022. Alongside local partners, we have hosted events, activities and workshops to understand people's ideas for the future of the parks - these have included pop-up hot chocolate bars, nature walks, litter picks, collage workshops, balloon-mapping exercises and more!

The culmination of all that we heard is captured in this playbook and has been put together as a resource to help shape the future of Beckton Parks and provide a starting point from which the masterplan can develop.

*Use this playbook as a resource to understand the thoughts of people within your local community, connect with neighbouring organisations and get great ideas for initiatives, events, activities and designs.*




**Methodology:** this first section will inform you about the methodology we have used to engage with the community and detail a timeline of what we've done throughout the project.

**Community Vision:** the following section shares the community vision, summarising an inspiring and exciting vision for the future of Beckton Parks.

**Six Principles for the Future:** in this section we break down the community vision into six principles. Each one describes what's important for the future of Beckton Parks and shares events, interviews and conversations we've had along the way. Each principle is supported by a treasure chest of ideas suggested by local people that could bring the vision to life.

**Concluding on common ground:** finally we summarise what stakeholders agreed was most important to consider within the Beckton Parks Masterplan and beyond - with some tangible next steps to kick-start some action!

 **Community Directory + Bank of References:** at the end of the playbook we've put together some useful resources to help the next phase of community engagement. This includes the Community Directory made up of contacts for groups, schools and organisations. We've also created a Bank of References made up of spaces and places suggested by local people that might provide inspiration for the future of Beckton Parks.

# Methodology

Throughout our engagement we combined a mixture of engagement methods. Some were devised to capture a wide breadth of responses from a wide range of people and some were created to capture deeper feedback from specific community segments.

As part of our approach, we have organised inclusive engagement activities that prioritise hard-to-reach, minority groups from culturally diverse backgrounds.

Newham is one of the most diverse boroughs in London, with a BAME/BIPOC community of **73%** of the borough's total population. This means that Newham is home to many who don't have English as their first language (**48%** of the population). Further engagement will require additional resources for translation services.

**Surveys** to engage online and offline with a wide range of people

**Pop-ups** to engage in-person with passers-by, people that might not attend an official event and non-park users

**Community collaborations** devised and organised in collaboration with existing community groups

**Public events** published widely and open to all

**Protected events** devised to engage with specific community segments who are typically harder-to-reach

**Interviews** to have in-depth conversations with specific stakeholders with different knowledges, experiences and interests

**Hiring a Local Engagement Producer** embedded as part of the Street Space team to inform our engagement approach



# Timeline

**31st January**  
Pop-up at Beckton Corridor and King George V Park

**9th February**  
Visit to Curious by Nature litter pick

**16th February**  
Half-term pop-up at Beckton Corridor and King George V Park

**19th February**  
Painting workshop in collaboration with local illustrator Matt Ponting at Gr8 Day to Play with Active Newham



**5th March**  
Visit to Beckton Park Run



**5th March**  
Pop-up at Beckton District Park North and South

**18th March**  
Visit to Youngest in Charge Red Carpet event at Stratford Picture House

**18th March**  
Nature Walk and cyanotype printing for non-EU migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in collaboration with Together South



**2nd April**  
Balloon Mapping Community Celebration in collaboration with 8 community partners Beckton District Park North

**15th - 18th July**  
Showcase exhibition at Will Thorne Pavilion

**24th May**  
Field Trip to Surrey Docks Farm and Stave Hill Ecological Park with community stakeholders

**7th February**  
Appointment of Faith, our Local Producer, to the team!



**11th February**  
Visit to Beckton Walking Group

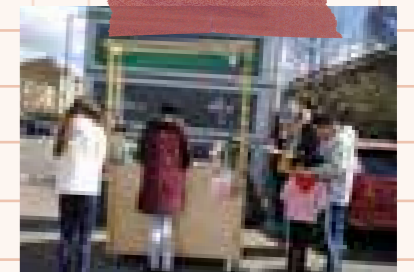


**12th March**  
Yoga and Mindfulness workshop in collaboration with local inclusive wellness instructor Fit2Relax for International Women's Day with Active Newham

**27th March**  
Pop-up at New Beckton Park

**1st April**  
Balloon Mapping workshop at Beckton Youth Zone

**3rd April**  
Final pop-up at Lidl & ASDA in Beckton



**16th March**  
Collaging workshop with local illustrator Matt Ponting at Beckton Globe Library

**1st April**  
Visit to Friday lunch-time prayer at New Beckton Park

**7th December - 31st January**  
Launch of Phase 1 on co-create - with Newham Council's online survey.

**10th January - 26th May**  
Interviews with community stakeholders

**1st February - 6th April**  
Launch of Phase 2 on co-create - with Street Space's Survey and interactive map.

**1st March - 1st April**  
Schools engagement resource sent to local primary schools

**10th May - 29th May**  
Publishing of emerging insights to gather feedback on what we'd heard so far

## What we have learnt

Throughout our engagement we aimed to capture people's relationship with the existing parks, understand what local people think makes a great green space and work with people to creatively re-imagine the future of Beckton Parks.

The following pages capture what we have learnt from local people throughout our engagement.



# Comments on Beckton Parks

So, what do the people we have spoken to think about Beckton Parks at the moment and in the past? Over the following pages we display the thoughts, feelings and memories associated with the different parks in the area.

They have been selected by Street Space to show the variety of different views we heard along the way.

"Beckton parks are very nostalgic for me, they remind me of my childhood and bring back happy memories."

"Without any toilets, water fountains, or other facilities, we often have to return home with the kids when they need the toilet, so we don't get to use the parks as long as we would like to."

"A13 creates a big barrier and there are not enough safe crossings that link us with the rest of Newham."

"The farm was a great place to visit with children from my class (I'm a teacher) and my own child and family friends. It was a treasured place in our area as it allowed the community to access a part of life that wasn't available anywhere else in our area."

"Like lots of people here, we live in a flat with no garden, this is the only place for my kids to run around. They play football with a spoon indoors! The park is our garden so it's very important."

"One of the main reasons we don't use these parks is because they aren't clean - Central Park is a much nicer option."

"It was so important to have these parks in Covid - they became a sanctuary for my mental health."

"The open space here makes you forget you're in a big city. Other London parks are busy and I can't find a space to think, but here, it's so peaceful and feels like some sort of African Savannah at times!"

"In the summer we have community BBQ and street parties, it's a lovely space for people to come together."

"It's so sad to see all of the dis-used spaces in the parks. There's so much need for resources in the community and so many people wanting to help. By closing things over the years they have ruined what was once a thriving place."

## Beckton District Park North

"Beckton District Park is like a maze, I enjoy the thrill of getting lost"

"The pond is so special - it is a calming place to visit and we always come to feed the ducks. I remember this when it was a boating lake - I used to buy ice cream!"

"My son was pirate mad and loved playing on the pirate boat in the playground. The zip line is also so fun!"

## Beckton Corridor

"Itchycoo park is my baby! It used to be a scary overgrown space where drug dealers would hang out and it was unable to be policed. Now it's a place people want to come and use, people find it very peaceful here."

"There are a lot of people who pass through here for work or to go to the shops, but it's not much of a destination - especially if it is dark as it feels very unsafe."

## Beckton District Park South

"It is nice and wild - you can get quite lost in between the trees and I love it when the grass grows out and there is a sea of dandelions."

"I love the hills, and the range of heights in the park."

"Beckton park run is one of the reasons I want to stay living in Newham. It is a beautiful community of people that has helped my family through depression and brought us joy, exercise and purpose."

## New Beckton Park

"The track is the perfect length for my sprint training (700M), but it could be better kept."

"The Royal Falcons gets young children off the street and gives them a purpose to achieve well."

"During Covid when we couldn't pray indoors, so Friday prayer took place here in the park, up to 400 people at a time, respecting the distance, but praying together. It was amazing."

## Newham City Farm Site

"Green spaces are essential for our mental well-being and the farm in particular helped both my children and grandchildren interact with animals and understand the relationship between animals and humans."

"Newham City Farm was one of the only safe place for families with special educational needs in the Borough... it was actually the first place my non-verbal son spoke! We were planning on getting him to volunteer there too."

"We loved the farm - biodiversity and animals are very important for us. This was the only place accessible to be that I could have a connection with animals."

## King George V Park

"Everything we need to do is in King George V park - it's the original park and we have so many happy memories here."

"I've met so many people at the Market Garden, everyone is so welcoming and we share tools, veggies and lots of talking - amongst all ages!"

## Introducing Faith, our local engagement producer



**Look out for Faith's interviews and read the thoughts of local people!**

Raised in Newham and with a background in Human Geography, I joined Street Space as a Local Engagement Producer.

Throughout the engagement I have enjoyed reflecting alongside fellow Newham residents on Beckton's parks and green spaces. From members of Beckton's walking group to young people at Beckton Globe youth centre - Newham residents have spoken passionately about their green spaces and the importance of providing easy access to such spaces so that people can enjoy nature for its educational and recreational services, as well as its beauty.

As part of the engagement process I have organised my own events, attended others and conducted interviews with a diverse group of individuals. My work with Street Space aimed to understand and capture what makes Beckton's parks unique and what could be supported better when looking to the future. We've had discussions about the vital role that parks and green spaces play in mental health and social cohesion. While also focusing on their thoughts around maintaining green spaces, improving perceptions of safety, making parks more inclusive, enhancing collaboration with community groups and are hopeful that the vision for the future of Beckton Parks could reflect these values.

# The Community Vision



The community vision for Beckton Parks is of a place where the community comes first. It is an inclusive place that celebrates the diversity of Newham, with provisions specifically designed for people across all ages, abilities, cultures, backgrounds, ethnicities, genders and sexualities.

This future Beckton Parks is not too shiny and extravagant, but is looked after and loved - not only by the council but by passionate local people

too. People feel safer in the future of Beckton Parks, thanks to the space being animated by activities and events that connect members of the community with their appreciation for nature and the outdoors.

A future Beckton Park bolsters all the current opportunities for sports and leisure, and more, harnessing the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and bringing more and more people from the borough and beyond to enjoy the space. The community vision

also sees the value of the green space for teaching young people about the importance of nature and biodiversity in a constantly growing city.

With financial and environmental sustainability in mind, the community vision sees Beckton Parks excelling - putting it on the map, whilst retaining the things that make it so special as a space, and protecting it for generations to come.



This collage is comprised of drawings submitted by local primary school children.

# Six principles for the future



The six principles for the future outline what we heard to be most important to local people for the future of Beckton Parks.

Each principle aims to provide a starting point from which deeper (and more detailed) engagement can develop in the next phases of the project and should be used to guide the development of future designs and decisions by centring the priorities of the local community.

The following pages provide deeper insight into what we've heard from local people and what each principle really means for the future of Beckton Parks. Alongside each principle we've gathered together ideas suggested by the people we've met to help make the vision become a reality.

These principles were published on the Newham Council Co-Create platform between 9th - 31st May for feedback from local people.

Since then, each insight has been revised in response to feedback.





**What have we heard?**

Through listening to local people we recognise the areas and communities surrounding Beckton Parks are diverse in many ways. People celebrate the diversity of abilities, cultures, ethnicities, languages, backgrounds, beliefs, knowledge and experiences and are proud to be part of the 'melting pot' of diverse culture that is Newham.

The Beckton Parks Masterplan is an opportunity for this diversity to be appreciated, celebrated and supported into the future for generations to come. This means acknowledging and embracing diverse demographics and working with communities to create supportive, intentional and safe spaces that prioritise the needs of minority groups.

**An interview with Tabrez**

Tabrez was born in Newham and has been living in the borough for 38 years. He worked with his local bilal mosque for 6 years as a programme coordinator.

**How can green spaces in Beckton be inclusive of all faiths and backgrounds?**



"In general, the Muslim community has the same needs as other religious groups and young working class families. For Muslim households with more children, large play areas are very important. They should be well maintained and large enough to support the community that they serve. Playgrounds are a great melting pot where generations of all backgrounds come together over something they share in common - wanting to have fun. This can be a great antidote to the division and hatred our children may be otherwise exposed to elsewhere.

**From the perspective of community organiser and Muslim resident**

When thinking about how green spaces can develop with and for the Muslim community, the Council should look into the barriers that prevent specific communities from using the parks and conversely, the things that encourage them to use them too! The Council could help facilitate activities like Friday prayer in the park. During the pandemic, there were restrictions placed on places of worship, so many decided to get together and pray in an open space or a park. Being at one with nature is important to our faith. Just being able to see the sunset, the birds chirping or hear the leaves rustling in the trees plays a massive part in the firmness of our belief."

## An interview with Sadia



## From the perspective of mother and carer

Sadia lives in Custom House and runs a support group for SEND families in Newham. Our local engagement producer Faith spoke to Sadia about what inclusive green spaces for children of all abilities might look like.

### How can future Beckton parks be designed with SEND families in mind?

“The necessary steps need to be taken to improve access to parks and green spaces in the borough, especially for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Other boroughs have play equipment for children of all abilities, such as accessible swings for wheelchair users. SEND children deserve playgrounds!

We need safe, enclosed, sensory playgrounds which include music walls, trampolines, communication boards, chalk walls and sensory gardens. Spaces that meet the needs of SEND children who seek sensory stimulation.

Newham City Farm was a safe, enclosed space for many SEND families and special needs young people were able to volunteer there. The closure of the farm is really upsetting for me - it was the first place my non-verbal son spoke!

When looking to the future, the council has to be intentional about inclusivity to ensure that SEND families are made visible in green spaces in Newham.”

## Listening to children with special educational needs and disabilities...



“There are a lot of people who feel forgotten about in Newham. There’s a lot for ‘everyone’ but not enough for people who have different or specialised needs. More attention needs to be paid to understanding people who are typically forgotten, to put their needs first and foremost.”

- Teacher & Carer

On the 19th February we hosted a painting workshop in collaboration with local illustrator Matt Ponting at the ‘Gr8 Day to Play’ event organised by Active Newham.

During the event we heard the value of sports, games and activities in the lives of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and gathered their ideas for the future.



“It’s important for our parks to have a quiet space for SEND children because some can get agitated by loudness and lots of people. There are too many children to each playground in Beckton, so we could have separate spaces, like you have quiet coaches on trains”

- Mother & Carer



# Your ideas



Reopen the city farm as a space for inclusion - bringing together animals and nature lovers, whilst involving residents of different ethnicities, economic backgrounds and physical abilities

Safe, secure and enclosed space that prioritises activities for people with SEND. This could include: a soft play area, social evening dances, cooking classes, after school clubs, pamper days, parenting advice and courses

Opportunities for cultural celebrations, festivals and events including Eid, Diwali, May Day, Holi and International Womens Day



Well maintained outdoor prayer facilities with a tap for washing

Safe exercise and play equipment that prioritises people with special educational needs and disabilities

**How might we create intentional spaces within the parks that recognise and prioritise the specialised needs of minoritised groups?**



Use the parks to organise religious & cultural celebrations throughout the year, and as a space where others can learn about other cultures and religions to break down barriers

A courtyard garden with benches for the elderly

The right balance of mixed-use areas and specific-use areas: allowing vulnerable people who need a separate, safe space to enjoy the park whilst also welcoming all different abilities

Specific 'quiet zones' to support people with autism, anxiety and other mental health disabilities which benefit from calm, natural spaces



Sensory gardens designed specifically for children and adults with special educational needs and disabilities with musical walls, water features, colour, patterns and scented areas



### What have we heard?

Through listening to local people we've heard that smaller changes of care, maintenance and the provision of basic facilities can go a long way to enhance the experience of visitors. Many believe basic infrastructures encourage both people and place to thrive and provide the basis for a happy and healthy future.

The Beckton Parks Masterplan is an opportunity to establish strong foundations for the future of green spaces. We've learnt that change is welcomed by many local people, but is conditional on the care and upkeep of infrastructures that can help support sustainable growth. From what we've heard, people don't want to see the big, shiny and the new - but want the protection and enhancement of existing spaces and places they have grown to value and love.

## An interview with Joanna

Joanna is passionate about the benefits of allotment gardening and has been gardening at the Community Market Garden within King George V Park since 2020. Our engagement producer Faith spoke to Joanna about the value of community gardening within Beckton and its potential for the future.

### What does the future of the community gardens look like to you?

"Firstly, it is vital to the users of the gardens that the space remains as a community garden. The community who use the gardens are really passionate about the space and see the Beckton Parks Masterplan as a great opportunity to expand the plots available to the community. I know that there is demand for more allotment spaces.

Recently, we have begun working with the council, which has meant that issues such as waste disposal and mowing of the grass are now being addressed. So it is important that collaboration with the council

continues to ensure the gardens continue to be maintained and the necessary steps are taken to make the gardens a safe and inclusive community space for people of all ages and abilities.

Also when looking to the future, it would be great to have the farm back in a working capacity. Once while we were gardening there was a goat and it was really lovely to have animals close by.

The gardens are important to the community in Beckton because gardening has benefits to mental health but also physical health because while gardening you are working various bodily muscles.

Also, people need opportunities to connect with each other and we have found that we are often signposting each other to other events and activities in the community."

## From the perspective of an allotment user

Discovering what's already happening in Beckton Parks...



Throughout our engagement we've hosted pop-ups throughout the parks and the surrounding areas to discover what's happening in the area and engage in-person with passers-by and people that might not attend an official event.

In these moments we've heard a great love for Beckton Parks and gathered some practical suggestions for their future.

"Right now you can't spend much more than one or two hours in the parks. My family and I would love to go for a day out, locally and for free in Beckton Parks but to be able to do this we'd at least need somewhere to eat, drink and go to the toilet. Let's design it so that people can stay for a full day out."

- Mother of three



"We use storage for our equipment at New Beckton Park, but could really do with more. We have always wanted a kiosk or a cafe to buy drinks after a game. People are willing to pay - just something cheap and simple."

- Aaron, Royal Falcons FC Coach



# Your ideas



Refurbish and open Will Thorne Pavilion, Newham City Farm and the pavilion on the lake as soon as possible for community use

Better maintained and increased number of toilets, bins, benches, play equipment and cafés to meet the needs of increasing park users

Parking blockade in between Viking Gardens and the road to prevent people parking on the grassed area



Marketing campaigns to better communicate the current activities going on in and around the parks

Create better connections to Newham Riding School at Docklands Equestrian Centre

Refurbish and better maintain the children's play areas with improved visibility

Provide toilets through the provision of cafés, community centres or activity centres to ensure they are kept clean

Install changing rooms, storage and as goal posts for the existing sports clubs to use

**How might we enhance and care for what's already loved in Beckton Parks and build the basic foundations for growth in the future?**

Improved paved pathways throughout the parks - accessible for wheelchair, mobility scooter and pram use

Improved public transport and active travel routes between the parks as well as creating safer crossing points at park entrances



Look into the potential for shorter-term use of the spaces mentioned throughout the early stages of co-design

Make it easier for local organisations to acquire fire lighting permits to conduct forest school activities in Beckton Parks



### What have we heard?

Through listening to local people we've heard that feeling safe is essential for park visitors to relax and enjoy themselves in Beckton Parks. We have seen how events and activities can encourage more footfall at different times of the day, animating the space and deterring anti-social behaviour.

The experiences described by people we've met present an opportunity for the future of the Beckton Parks Masterplan to cultivate a sense of trust between people, their park and neighbouring communities. Everybody should feel like they can use their park at all times.

## An interview with Clare

Clare is 16 and attends Kingsford Community School, she enjoys visiting parks with her friends. She spoke with our Local Producer Faith about how Beckton Parks could be better designed to consider the needs of young girls and support them to thrive.

### What do you think are the barriers to young girls using parks and green spaces in Beckton?

"I understand that girls my age tend to not be frequent users of parks, despite the many benefits being outdoors has to health. Firstly, it is important to make sure that people feel safe. I personally feel safer when there are more people around so I tend to visit parks with my friends. Having visible park wardens would improve perceptions of safety in the parks in Beckton. Having a cafe in the park would make the park feel a lot busier and safer as well as create a great space to study with friends after school. But I would say the main barrier is the absence of equipment and activities for teenage girls in parks."

### What facilities would attract young girls to use parks and green spaces?

"I agree that parks play a vital role in determining how active girls are. I think teenage girls would go to parks more often if there were more organised activities such as netball, basketball or even dance classes. When looking to the future, I hope for creative outdoor spaces for young people in Beckton. For example, I like the idea of having a collection of hammocks as a nice, safe place to relax and talk to friends or even a stage to practice tik tok dances. Another good example would be the Beckton Globe Youth Zone, it is a friendly environment and there is lots to do. So perhaps creating a similar environment in the green spaces in Beckton, with outdoor games like table tennis. This would be a great way to meet and make new friends."

## From the perspective of young person and student

On the 1st April we were joined by young people from Beckton Youth Zone to help us create a Balloon Mapping rig (attaching a camera to the bottom of a huge helium balloon). Balloon Mapping is a low-cost way to take aerial photos using a camera, attached to a balloon, on a spool of string. We worked together to create the rig and spelled out 'YOUTH' as a priority for the future of the parks.



“There needs to be more benches for young people to hang out and talk. I love Beckton Youth Zone, I’ve made so many friends there, people are friendly and have a good sense of humour.”

- Young person attending Beckton Youth Zone

**Listening to the thoughts of women and girls...**



On the 12th March we hosted a Yoga and Mindfulness workshop in collaboration with local inclusive wellness instructor Fit2Relax for International Womens Day. Through movement workshops, meditations and exercise we invited women to reflect upon their experiences of Beckton Parks and think together about how future green spaces in Beckton can better support women to thrive.

“My children have all grown up now. We used to use the parks together as a family but now I don’t have a reason to visit them like I did when they were young. I’d meet lots of other mothers when I was with my kids but now find it hard to meet people and make friends.”

- Mother of two attending free yoga class



“The more people around, the safer the parks feel. The parks would attract more people if there was a cafe and other amenities. Although the physical design of the parks is important, space is ultimately created and transformed by social action.”

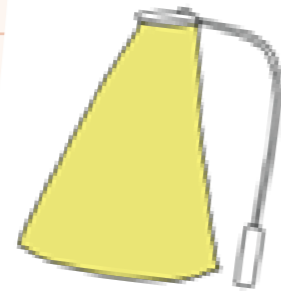
- Woman



# Your ideas



Improved general lighting after dark to improve public safety and flood lights to allow year-round sports



Locks on the gates to the park which are closed at the same time each day

Events to bring people to the parks and encourage social connection. These could include music and arts festivals, pop-up open-air cinema, markets, summer fêtes, book fairs, car boot sale, which could also act to support local businesses in the area



Bandstand or events area for performances and live music

Fun, alternative seating such as hammocks and teepees making it a unique destination for people to come together and socialise



Designated picnic areas with optional covered space for families to come together, socialise and spend the day

**How can we harness the lived experiences of people to improve perceptions of safety in Beckton Parks through both physical and social interventions?**

Preventative measures to stop motorbikes from using footpaths

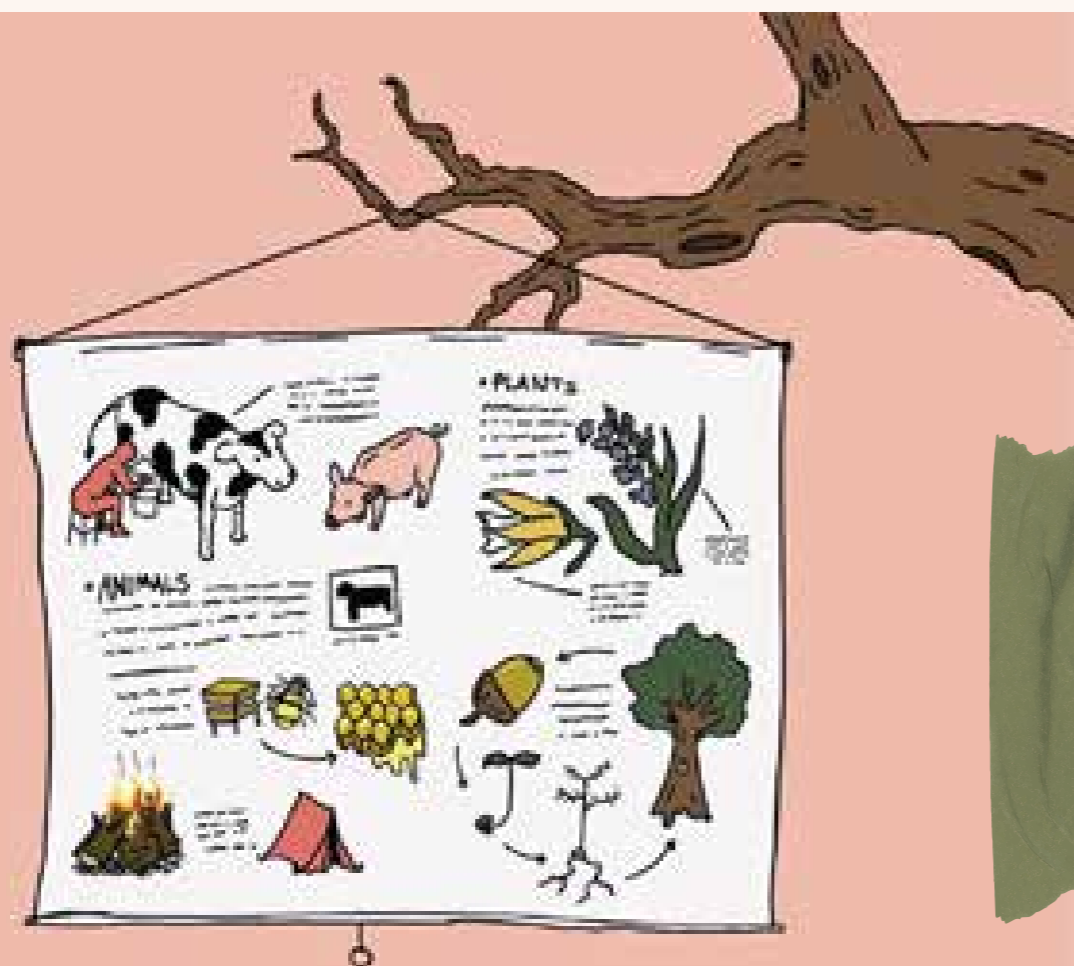
Open opportunities for evening-time events which animate the space. These could include, food markets, bat tours, fireworks nights, fun fairs and female-led night-time running club

More CCTV throughout the parks, particularly on Beckton Corridor

Friendly and approachable park wardens to get to know, ask questions and report incidents



Floodlit tennis and basketball courts - like in Stratford Park, which will increase activity and liveliness after dark



## HARNESS GREEN SPACES AS LEARNING PLACES

### What have we heard?

Through listening to local people we've heard a strong interest in learning new skills and knowledge within locally accessible green spaces. Many of those we've spoken to especially recognise the importance of children from urban places becoming familiar with nature and wildlife.

The Beckton Parks Masterplan is an opportunity to create spaces and places

of learning to inspire the next generation to care for natural habitats. It will help to maintain the biodiversity present in the parks, enabling both people and places to thrive in the future.

There's also an opportunity to encourage more people to use the parks through the provision of educational initiatives and in turn, remove embedded barriers that people face that prevent them from using the parks.

## An interview with Liam

Liam is an Outdoor Learning and Forest School Teacher at Calverton Primary School, close to King George V Park. The school uses Ham Creek Wood as their private forest for outdoor learning activities including shelter building, beam balancing, fire making, foraging and the occasional stick fight.

### Tell me about the outdoor activities that you do with the children at your school and why you do them.

"We do a lot of activities that place emphasis on agency building. The children aren't monitored in the same way as they are in the classroom, they have more freedom and responsibility. Risky play empowers them to make their own decisions about what's safe and can help us avoid dangerous and unsolicited risk based activities that we might see in parks as some children get older.

Learning amongst nature can also be hugely therapeutic - even those with severe behavioural problems seem to disappear in the forest."

### Describe how you think Beckton Parks can provide more opportunities for outdoor learning for young children.

"There's loads of opportunities for any school to take their children into the natural environment and learn - there's tonnes of links in the national curriculum that just need to be drawn out. I'd like to introduce some more trips to the local area - we'd love to come to Beckton Parks but to do this we'd need safe and accessible pathways from our school into the park and toilets when we get there."

### How can we better include children in shaping the future of Beckton Parks?

"School pupils are a key stakeholder group that could be mobilised at all stages of the planning process. This would establish a sense of ownership and care amongst this vital part of the community as well as offering important educational opportunities."

## From the perspective of a local teacher



For more information about what we learnt on the field trip see pages 72 + 73.

“A city farm is a really good example of a space that provides a central hub for lots of community centred activities that bring lots of different people together, through the shared experience of doing something different, learning together and connecting with animals within the city.”

- Save Newham City Farm Campaigner

Visiting other inspirational spaces in London...



“I love how these spaces recycle, and reuse resources to support other areas of the parks in a cheap and sustainable way. Using rainwater for toilets, creating compost for the plants, growing vegetables for the cafe and selling honey in the shop. It teaches people a lot about looking after the environment and where the things we use come from.” - Former volunteer at Newham City Farm

On the 25th May, Street Space took community members and council officers on a field trip to Stave Hill Ecological Park and Surrey Docks Farm to take a step out of Newham and learn from neighbouring spaces and places suggested by local stakeholders. Throughout the day we discussed the future of animals and outdoor learning within the Beckton Parks Masterplan.



“The interactive features like QR codes and artwork point out interesting things about the spaces that might otherwise be missed and help us learn about our surroundings.”

- Volunteer Bee Keeper

## Animals & Wildlife

Since January, we've listened to many comments from local people about the closure of Newham City Farm. Many people feel saddened by its closure, describing it as an invaluable, affordable community hub that offered something for everyone in the community. But many people also acknowledge that the farm wasn't working as well as it could have. The buildings are in disrepair and require significant investment to make them safe to house animals and welcome visitors.

The closure of Newham City Farm now presents an opportunity to re-imagine the site. So, how might we learn from the past to explore the future? Which provisions were most valued? How might these be re-imagined?

Newham City Farm was closed inline with COVID-19 lock-down restrictions on March 23rd 2020 and was not reopened in line with step 2 of the lock-down easement roadmap on April 12th 2021. This decision was taken in relation to the condition of the site, the site's ability to meet the welfare needs of the animals and the ongoing costs of running the site.

What did people say they liked about Newham City Farm?

"The animals!"

"The variety of spaces and activities that help support visitors mental health and well-being."

"Volunteering opportunities for vulnerable people and minority groups including those with special educational needs, disabilities and mental health conditions."

"Free entry and free toilets!"

"Safe and enclosed areas for playing, community growing, learning, picnicking, meeting & socialising."

"It's location between Custom House and Beckton that aided bringing communities together from different areas and backgrounds."

"The learning resource for both home-schooling and local schools to embed within their curriculum."

"Assisted riding and equine therapy."

Throughout our engagement we didn't hear one singular, fixed vision for the future of animals in Beckton Parks. Some focused on their role in the provision of outdoor education, others focused on opportunities for SEND people and others focused on the act of caring for animals. However, the majority agreed that animals should be included within the Beckton Parks Masterplan and that the former Newham City Farm site remain for community benefit and provide a valuable space for outdoor learning.

At the heart of what we heard was an ambition for the creation of an **inclusive space** that provides something for everyone (particularly SEND and younger people) that can help **strengthen communities**. People want to see a space that is **managed well** by charities, groups or businesses that invite people to be involved and help to grow and transform the space. People want to see a space that's both **financially** and **environmentally sustainable** for the future, that's got a long-lasting legacy.

# Your ideas



More opportunities for local schools to play an active role in using and caring for green spaces through access to tree planting, gardening events, re-wilding initiatives and litter picking

Educational information about wildlife and biodiversity and how to care for and respect them

Resources to create a seasonal curriculum, for example learning about vegetables grown in summer versus winter, the process of lambing in spring, and camp-fire-making to encourage people to get out in winter

An area for pond dipping to learn about frogs, newts, pond life and many more mini-beasts!

A well-run and sustainable City Farm as a space for learning about farming, animal husbandry, food growing, life cycles, composting, recycling and climate change

**How might we create opportunities for people to learn about supporting the natural environment and build sustainable futures?**

An exhibition or mini museum dedicated to celebrating local history

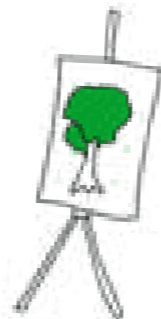
Bike maintenance workshops to help teach the young people how to repair their own bikes and encourage people to cycle more



Host bat tours to educate local people about wildlife after dark



Outdoor easels located in different areas of the park to encourage people to bring their own drawing and painting materials



Available duck feed for Beckton pond to encourage people to care for the ducks and feed them with appropriate food

Biodiverse nature reserve within the park with pathways and interactive features to encourage walking and learning



No dig gardening in order to not destroy the fertility of the soil



## INVEST IN REALISTIC AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### What have we heard?

Through listening to local people we've heard passion and excitement surrounding opportunities to be involved in shaping and supporting the future of Beckton Parks. The different people we've met all have varying amounts of time, energy, interest and expertise but most agree on wanting to get involved more, in ways that work for them.

We've also heard consistent admiration and gratitude towards those who are

already investing their time and energy to create spaces, places and services that are accessible to local people. In particular, Beckton District Park South Pond (nicknamed Itchycoo Park). It is clearly a well-loved community asset, heralded for its grassroots approach to place making. The Beckton Parks Masterplan is an opportunity to celebrate, maintain and support community-led spaces and services in a way that is realistic for both local people and local council.

## An interview with Brian

Local couple Brian and Pam have worked together to transform and enhance the ponds along Beckton Corridor into a cherished community space - nicknamed 'Itchycoo Park'.



### How did it all begin? What led you to take action to improve the ponds?

"The place was and has been for as long as I have lived in Beckton, which is 22 years, a complete and utter disaster. No one ever went there, it was very overgrown, very inaccessible and we had a huge problem with fly tipping.

So we started to clean up and before long we had the whole area cleared of debris. We cleaned the water, cleared the bushes and re-established the paths. Turning it into what it is today, a public amenity which everyone loves! It is a very small private park, a lot of people come here for their mental health and well-being, they sit and relax, you're amongst the trees and grass so you can interact with nature.

Ultimately, our aim has always been the same to create a beautiful park for the animals and the people. Importantly to make it safe so the animals can live there and prosper."

### What can we learn from this project for the future of Beckton Parks?

"To create more community-led parks and green spaces that people feel proud of we need to collaborate more with the Council. We've begun to do this at Itchycoo Park and more could be done to maintain the spaces together.

Secondly, to get more community members involved - they have to feel that they can do it, that they are allowed to make changes. There is always someone around who is prepared to do the work, they just need someone to say go for it. We started without permission, so we always had this thought of somebody going to come and stamp on us. It was a brilliant thing that James Asser and a member of green spaces told us to keep going. There needs to be a process that if you need to change something you can be supported to do so. For example, the regeneration of Cody Dock goes to show what people can do when they get together and cooperate to improve an area."



“I know many people who’d like to help bring life back to these parks. We used to run the cafe here back when they had boats on the lake - it was a thriving place once. People need to be given the opportunity to use and shape the unused spaces in the parks.”

- Caterer and host of the pop-up picnic

**Collaborating with local groups to test ideas for the future...**



On the 2nd April we hosted a spring fête celebration. Groups were supported to explore, create and test their ideas LIVE within Beckton District Park to learn about what works well for the future. Ideas included a pop-up picnic, live music, martial arts and yoga sessions, nature-based watercolour painting and forest school activities. Whilst the celebration took place we sailed a 6ft red Balloon high in the sky to capture images from above.

“The food, music and sunny weather has been particularly good today for bringing people together, raising spirits and encouraging people to connect with each other. These small things really do go a long way to create a safe and welcoming environment for people to better enjoy the parks.”

- Painter and Illustrator



“I think it’s great what you’re doing here today, it’s very rare to be given the opportunity to come and meet people in my community. You’ve created a really friendly space that people feel comfortable in. I’ve made loads of contacts and met some great people! We need to see more of this at Beckton Parks.”

- Yoga teacher



# Your ideas



Liaison and workshopping with council members, green spaces teams, and local resident representatives

Better manage allocation of allotments to enable local people to understand how they are allocated and to ensure that vacant plots are reallocated

Continued genuine consultation during the subsequent phases of the Masterplan and include existing park users in the co-design of specific spaces that they will use in the future

Realistic small-scale projects kick started by local residents. Starting small and growing!

Space for both professional and non-professional artists and public artworks, inviting local clubs, schools, colleges and universities to take part in open-submission exhibitions

Create employment and volunteer opportunities for local people within the park (particularly for SEND people)

Food growing to provide opportunities for craft fairs and food markets which locals can get involved in

Harness the energy and passion of the active residents in the area to launch volunteer programmes and community assembly projects to develop methods for local organisations to occupy, activate and make changes to spaces within the park

Explore sustainable models for co-running Beckton Park's spaces like Newham City Farm Site

**How might we create more opportunities for local people to be involved in ways that are possible for them and sustainable for the future?**

Properly supported and motivated volunteer squads led by the council

Cleaner ponds, well oxygenated and beneficial for animal, bird and invertebrate life, with no hydrogen sulphide smell



Enable the creation of small-scale pocket parks by residents - to offer beautiful, serene and peaceful places with minimal input from the council

Better publicise community events and opportunities online and off. In a unique, uncluttered and well-designed way - even a new "What's On" website to refer to





## CARE FOR THE BODIES AND MINDS OF ALL

### What have we heard?

Through listening to local people we've recognised the value of Beckton Parks for supporting the mental and physical health of communities across the Borough. Many feel having access to the parks empowers them to have more agency over their own health and well-being, providing them with a place to play, relax, exercise and to be close to nature.

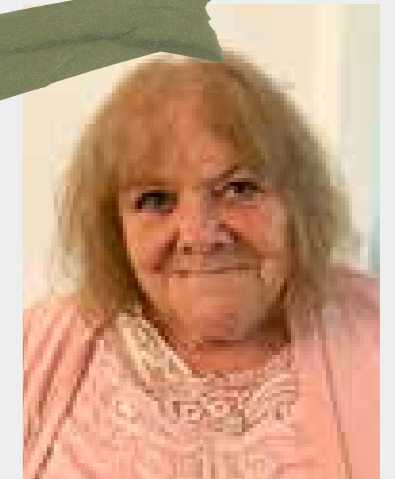
From hearing about the other inspiring

green spaces that people travel to elsewhere in London, we can see the benefits of offering a wider variety of outdoor leisure activities - from organised sports, to wheel parks, to smooth cycle tracks. This variety will attract a wider range of people to come and use the parks.

The Beckton Parks Masterplan is an opportunity to re-energise and invest in the spaces, places and projects that encourage people to look after themselves and their families.

## An interview with Christine

Christine is 78 and has been living in Newham for 30 years. Christine shares her memories of green spaces across Beckton and talks to us about how nature-based recreation plays a critical role in improving the well-being of elderly people.



### How can the past inform the future of green spaces and parks in Beckton?

"The green spaces in Beckton are unique, Newham City Farm played a huge part in making the green spaces in Beckton unique. Newham is an inner city borough and is one of the poorest boroughs in London. For many children, visiting Newham City Farm was their first experience of seeing farm animals. The farm was a brilliant resource for the local community, we would love to see the farm re-opened.

Beckton District Park North is beautiful, 30 years ago we used to have boats and a cafe on the lake - it was wonderful! The Will Thorne Pavilion is another great space, when it was open we would have community BBQ's and many people would hire the hall for their 60th and 70th birthday parties. Opening up the cafe and the pavilion will allow for more social gatherings and community events. We are a very friendly, close-knit community in Beckton - that's why people who live in Beckton very rarely move because it is such a lovely ward!"

### How can the needs of elderly people be incorporated into the future of Beckton parks?

"Elderly people tend to be physically active during park visits, mainly through walking. At my age, it is important to keep fit and healthy so walking in parks and interacting with nature has benefits to physical as well as mental health. While walking there is so much to look at, we are very lucky in Beckton, we have various plants, scrubs, birds and even blackberry trees which we can pick and eat. When thinking about the future of Beckton Parks the phrase I would use is plenty of variety. By this I mean having activities for the elderly to avoid them being alone, for example gardening projects, markets and even a pets corner/ petting zoo. This way, elderly people can meet each other and hear about other events and gatherings happening. But the green spaces in Beckton need to be made more elderly friendly, by having toilets and a cafe with a nice seating area."



“I come to exercise here and get away from the busy city. It feels peaceful and relaxing, like somewhere outside London. It’s good for both my body and my mind. I’ve just moved from Tower Hamlets and I’m so much happier here to be close to nature.”

- Father of two

Talking with non-EU migrants, refugees and asylum seekers...



On the 18th March, in collaboration with Together South, we invited non-EU migrants, asylum seekers and refugees together for a walk around Beckton Parks to talk about the value of green spaces in their lives.

Together we created cyanotype prints, carefully gathering natural elements and composing beautiful images to capture our shared experience of the day.

“Beckton Park Run is my favourite thing about these parks. It keeps me fit and healthy whilst meeting people who live close to me. I have good friends that I’ve met at the Park Run and now my kids join me too.”

- Park Runner



“I go outside for the fresh air, if the weather is nice I play cricket in the park with friends. I enjoyed this activity, I would come again to activities like this in the park.”

- Man attending nature walk



# Your ideas



Adult Learning courses at indoor venues near park to help to promote the wider use of the parks

More alternative activity offering - including a skate and wheel park, BMX tracks, climbing/bouldering facilities, and obstacle courses

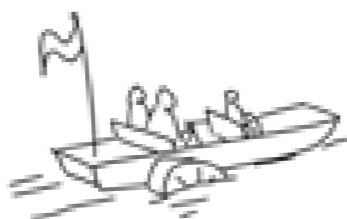


Dedicated meditation space with herbal gardens and sensory elements like streams and waterfalls to encourage people to relax. These spaces could also offer eco-therapy and well-being workshops set up by local people

Colourful and vibrant plants that make people feel happy



Pedal boats in Beckton District Park North



Better drainage on field and grass areas to make it safer for sports and games

Climbing facilities to encourage older children and adolescents to be more active

**How might we better care for the bodies and minds of all people through the design of Beckton Parks?**

Install public table tennis tables with the option to rent paddles from a nearby facility

Use food growing as a way to make people choose healthy lifestyles, and to improve mental health by being out in nature

Cycling networks, safe routes, safe bike parking and public bike pumps throughout the parks



Water fountains to keep park visitors (and dogs) hydrated



Open up the community buildings for indoor sports, exercise and activities and for use during poor weather conditions

A small scale water park for children to enjoy in the summer

More outdoor sports activities and classes in the park such as pilates and yoga



From our engagement we have summarised what all stakeholders agreed was most important to consider within the Beckton Parks Masterplan

## Concluding on common ground

**Inclusivity:** the masterplan must be designed so that all types of different people, with different needs and interests are recognised and catered for. This includes specific provisions for people across different ages, abilities, cultures, backgrounds, ethnicities, genders and sexualities.

**Community Building:** the masterplan must prioritise spaces, places and activities that support people to come together and strengthen as a community.

**Financial Sustainability:** the masterplan must be financially sustainable and possible to manage for generations to come. This may mean that it is part-run by a capable private charitable company, stewarded by a local community organisations or renting spaces to small local businesses and topping up budgets through available grants and funding streams.

**Environmental Sustainability:** the masterplan should prioritise the idea of a sustainable, green and closed loop system in which the different provisions within the spaces overlap, intersect and support each other - recycling waste, using by-products, sharing resources and disseminating information.

**Transparent Communication:** the masterplan must involve local people through clear and honest communication about what's happening and what's to come. We can learn from the past difficulties to shape a future Beckton Parks people are proud of.

## Possible next steps...

**Start small, do things well, learn through doing and support things to grow authentically.**

All stakeholders are in agreement that a successful and sustainable park isn't going to spring to life in an instant! Starting small by testing elements that are easier to manage and maintain for community benefit is a good way of making sure things are done properly and are able to sustain for years to come.

But where might we begin? Here are some ideas that could be tested and brought to life in the short-term:

- Re-opening the wildlife area within the Newham City Farm site for community use
- Re-opening of the bee-keeping spaces within the Newham City Farm site for community use
- Temporary use of spaces for local groups to adopt for limited periods of time
- Launching of community assembly projects or seed funding to support local people to deliver and test their own ideas within the parks
- Opening a community cafe in one of the empty buildings with toilet facilities as a hub for local groups








# Community Directory

Street Space have created this community directory to enable both community and council to connect with people in the local area to share skills, knowledge and resources to help shape the future of Beckton Parks.

## Groups we've met that use the parks already:



### Active Newham

Leisure Trust working in partnership with Newham Council to deliver leisure, sports and volunteering opportunities in Newham.

-  [www.activenewham.org.uk](http://www.activenewham.org.uk)
-  [contact@activenewham.org.uk](mailto:contact@activenewham.org.uk)
-  [@Active\\_newham](https://www.instagram.com/Active_newham)
-  [@Activenewham](https://twitter.com/Activenewham)
-  [@ActiveNewham1](https://www.facebook.com/ActiveNewham1)

### Beckton Allotments

Allotment plots close to Beckton Parks include Market Gardens, Cyprus, Leyes Road and South Beckton.

-  [www.newham.gov.uk/outdoors](http://www.newham.gov.uk/outdoors)
-  [allotments@newham.gov.uk](mailto:allotments@newham.gov.uk)


### Beckton Park Run

A free, fun, and friendly weekly 5k community event every Saturday at 9:00am at Beckton District Park South.

-  [www.parkrun.org.uk/beckton/](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/beckton/)
-  [beckton@parkrun.com](mailto:beckton@parkrun.com)
-  [@ParkrunUK](https://www.instagram.com/ParkrunUK)
-  [@parkrunUK](https://twitter.com/parkrunUK)



### Itchycoo Park Project

A resident-led project to restore an abandoned park at Beckton Corridor.

-  [www.https://itchycoo-park-beckton.business.site](https://www.https://itchycoo-park-beckton.business.site)



### Alphabet House Nursery School

Nursery School providing education and care to young children from Stroud Pavillion in New Beckton Park.

-  [www.beckton.alphabethousenurseries.co.uk](http://www.beckton.alphabethousenurseries.co.uk)
-  [beckton@alphabethousenurseries.co.uk](mailto:beckton@alphabethousenurseries.co.uk)




### Beckton Cats Youth FC

Football club in Beckton Park for young people with training every Thursday and Saturday.

-  [www.becktoncatsfc.site123.me](http://www.becktoncatsfc.site123.me)
-  [info@becktoncatsfc.com](mailto:info@becktoncatsfc.com)
-  [@Becktoncatsyfc](https://www.instagram.com/Becktoncatsyfc)
-  [@FcBeckton](https://twitter.com/FcBeckton)
-  [@BecktonCatsFC](https://www.facebook.com/BecktonCatsFC)



### Curious By Nature

Outdoor learning community and self directed education in Beckton to help care for the environment and local resources.

-  [www.curiousbynaturelondon.co.uk](http://www.curiousbynaturelondon.co.uk)
-  [curiousbynaturelondon@gmail.com](mailto:curiousbynaturelondon@gmail.com)
-  [@Curiousbynaturelondon](https://www.instagram.com/Curiousbynaturelondon)





### Fit 2 Relax

Health, wellness and fitness classes for all ages and abilities.

-  [www.fit2relax.london](http://www.fit2relax.london)
-  [karen@fit2relax.london](mailto:karen@fit2relax.london)





### Save Newham City Farm

Campaign group working to save Newham City Farm.

-  [www.savenewhamcityfarm.com](http://www.savenewhamcityfarm.com)
-  [savenewhamcityfarm@gmail.com](mailto:savenewhamcityfarm@gmail.com)
-  [@save\\_newhamcityfarm](https://www.instagram.com/save_newhamcityfarm)
-  [@savenewhamfarm](https://twitter.com/savenewhamfarm)

### Royal Falcons FC



Football club in New Beckton Park for young people with 11 youth teams U6-U15.

-  [www.royalfalconsfc.club](http://www.royalfalconsfc.club)
-  [stevensmith65@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stevensmith65@hotmail.co.uk)
-  [@royalfalconsyfc](https://www.instagram.com/royalfalconsyfc)
-  [@RoyalYfc](https://twitter.com/RoyalYfc)

## Neighbouring Schools:



### Gallions Primary School

Primary School close to New Beckton Park.

-  [www.gallions.newham.sch.uk](http://www.gallions.newham.sch.uk)
-  [info@gallions.newham.sch.uk](mailto:info@gallions.newham.sch.uk)



### Winsor Primary School

Primary School close to New Beckton Park.

-  [www.winsor.newham.sch.uk](http://www.winsor.newham.sch.uk)
-  [info@winsor.newham.sch.uk](mailto:info@winsor.newham.sch.uk)



### Kingsford Community School

Secondary & international school close to New Beckton Park.

-  [www.kingsfordschool.org.uk](http://www.kingsfordschool.org.uk)
-  [admin@kingsford.newham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kingsford.newham.sch.uk)



### Calverton Primary School

Primary School close to King George V Park.

-  [www.calverton.newham.sch.uk](http://www.calverton.newham.sch.uk)
-  [info@calverton.newham.sch.uk](mailto:info@calverton.newham.sch.uk)



### Royal Docks Academy

Secondary school close to King George V Park.

-  [www.royaldocksacademy.org](http://www.royaldocksacademy.org)
-  [faldoj@royaldocksacademy.org](mailto:faldoj@royaldocksacademy.org)



### Britannia Village Primary School

Primary school in Silvertown.

-  [www.britannia-village.newham.sch.uk](http://www.britannia-village.newham.sch.uk)
-  [info@britanniaeducationtrust.com](mailto:info@britanniaeducationtrust.com)



### Ellen Wilkinson Primary School

Primary School close to Beckton District Park.

-  [www.ellenwilkinson.newham.sch.uk](http://www.ellenwilkinson.newham.sch.uk)
-  [info@ellenwilkinson.newham.sch.uk](mailto:info@ellenwilkinson.newham.sch.uk)

### North Beckton Primary School

Primary school close to Beckton District Park.

-  [www.northbeckton.newham.sch.uk](http://www.northbeckton.newham.sch.uk)
-  [info@northbeckton.newham.sch.uk](mailto:info@northbeckton.newham.sch.uk)



### Tollgate Primary School

Primary school close to Beckton District Park.

-  [www.tollgate.boleyntrust.org](http://www.tollgate.boleyntrust.org)
-  [info@tollgate.boleyntrust.org](mailto:info@tollgate.boleyntrust.org)



### Scott Wilkie Primary School

Primary school close to King George V Park.

-  [www.scottwilkie.newham.sch.uk](http://www.scottwilkie.newham.sch.uk)
-  [hannah.cleland@scottwilkie.newham.sch.uk](mailto:hannah.cleland@scottwilkie.newham.sch.uk)



### Drew School

Primary school in Silvertown.

-  [www.drew.newham.sch.uk](http://www.drew.newham.sch.uk)
-  [info@drew.lihtrust.uk](mailto:info@drew.lihtrust.uk)

### Oasis Academy Silvertown

Secondary school in Silvertown.

-  [www.oasisacademysilvertown.org](http://www.oasisacademysilvertown.org)
-  [office@oasisilvertown.org](mailto:office@oasisilvertown.org)

### Rosetta Primary School

Primary school in Canning Town.

- 🌐 [www.rosetta.boleyntrust.org](http://www.rosetta.boleyntrust.org)
- ✉ [info@rosetta.boleyntrust.org](mailto:info@rosetta.boleyntrust.org)

### Education Links

An Alternative Provision Free School working with young people at risk of exclusion or those with SEND.

- 🌐 [www.education-links.org](http://www.education-links.org)
- ✉ [office@education-links.org](mailto:office@education-links.org)

### St Joachims Primary School

Primary school in Canning Town.

- 🌐 [www.st-joachims.newham.sch.uk](http://www.st-joachims.newham.sch.uk)
- ✉ [info@st-joachims.newham.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-joachims.newham.sch.uk)

### JFK Special School

A special school with three sites in Newham for profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) and autism spectrum conditions (ASC), full of fantastic, vibrant and incredibly talented students.

- 🌐 [www.johnfkennedy.newham.sch.uk](http://www.johnfkennedy.newham.sch.uk)
- ✉ [info@jfk.lihtrust.uk](mailto:info@jfk.lihtrust.uk)

### Beckton Community Projects

Community group developing projects to rebuild community spirit develop community cohesion and build projects to benefit local communities.

- 🌐 [www.becktoncommunityprojects.org.uk](http://www.becktoncommunityprojects.org.uk)
- ✉ [info@becktoncommunityprojects.org.uk](mailto:info@becktoncommunityprojects.org.uk)
- 📷 @becktoncommunityprojects\_
- 📺 @BecktonCommunityProjects

### Brighter Futures

Newham Council funded Strategic Needs assessment on Youth Safety.

- ✉ [Cassandra.Beckford@Newham.gov.uk](mailto:Cassandra.Beckford@Newham.gov.uk)
- 🐦 @Brighter\_Praxis
- 📺 @Brighterfutureslondon

### Custom House Bookshop

An independent bookshop in the heart of Custom House.

- ✉ [customhousebookshop@gmail.com](mailto:customhousebookshop@gmail.com)
- 📷 @customhousebookshop
- 🐦 @HouseBookshop
- 📺 @customhousebookshop

### Forest Gate Arts

Volunteer led organisation working in partnership with different organisations and individuals to develop a broad variety of creative opportunities and activities; encouraging collaborations and helping nurture a creative community.

- 🌐 [www.forestgatearts.co.uk](http://www.forestgatearts.co.uk)
- ✉ [forestgatearts@gmail.com](mailto:forestgatearts@gmail.com)
- 📷 @forestgatearts
- 📺 @forestgatearts

### St Marks Community Centre

Community Centre that offers a wide and varied number of services, events, and activities to all aspects of the community.

- 🌐 [www.stmarkscentre.org](http://www.stmarkscentre.org)
- ✉ [info@stmarkscentre.org](mailto:info@stmarkscentre.org)

### Beckton Globe Youth Zone

Youth Zone based at Beckton Globe to enable young people to develop their voice, influence and place in society and work towards reaching their full potential.

- ✉ [youth.zones@newham.gov.uk](mailto:youth.zones@newham.gov.uk)
- 📷 @becktonglobeyouthzone1bn

### Bonny Downs Community Centre

Community-led charity supporting a diverse cross-section of our local community, working with people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds.

- 🌐 [www.bonnydowns.org](http://www.bonnydowns.org)
- ✉ [info@bonnydowns.org](mailto:info@bonnydowns.org)
- 📷 @bdca247
- 🐦 @bdca247
- 📺 @bonnydowns

### Docklands Equestrian Centre

A BHS affiliated and ABRS approved riding school, owned and operated by the UK registered charity, Newham Riding School

- 🌐 [www.docklandsequestriancentre.com](http://www.docklandsequestriancentre.com)
- ✉ [riding.school@btconnect.com](mailto:riding.school@btconnect.com)
- 📷 @docklandsequestrian
- 📺 @docklandsequestrian

### Fight for Peace

Fight for Peace uses boxing and martial arts combined with education and personal development to realise the potential of young people in communities that suffer from crime and violence.

- 🌐 [www.fightforpeace.net](http://www.fightforpeace.net)
- ✉ [info@fightforpeace.net](mailto:info@fightforpeace.net)
- 📷 @fightforpeace
- 🐦 @fightforpeace

## Neighbouring Community Organisations & Initiatives:

### 5Es

Performance & employability coaching, capacity building, poverty relief and inclusive support for children, individuals, elderly and families enabling them to overcome barriers, fulfil goals, aspire, achieve more, be healthy and contribute positively in the communities they live in.

- 🌐 [www.the5es.org](http://www.the5es.org)
- ✉ [info@the5es.org](mailto:info@the5es.org)
- 🐦 @The5es4
- 📺 @The5es4

### Alternatives Trust East London

Charity that empowers vulnerable families in the London Borough of Newham to transform their lives.

- 🌐 [www.altel.org.uk](http://www.altel.org.uk)
- ✉ [alternatives@altel.org.uk](mailto:alternatives@altel.org.uk)
- 🐦 @AlternativesTEL
- 📺 @AlternativesTrustEastLondon

### AAA's

Support for children and young people, regardless of background, ability or disability to reach their full potential.

- 🌐 [www.theaaazone.com](http://www.theaaazone.com)
- ✉ [jonny@theaaazone.com](mailto:jonny@theaaazone.com)
- 🐦 @Theaaazone
- 📺 @AmbitionAspireAchieve

### Ascension Trust

Charity based in Custom House which aims to enable the whole community to make the community whole.

- 🌐 [www.ascensioncommunitytrust.org](http://www.ascensioncommunitytrust.org)
- ✉ [admin@ascensioncommunitytrust.org](mailto:admin@ascensioncommunitytrust.org)
- 📷 @Ascension\_community\_trust
- 🐦 @Ascension\_trust
- 📺 @AscensionCommunityTrust

### Beckton and Royal Docks Children Centre

Charity based in Custom House which aims to enable the whole community to make the community whole.

- 🌐 [www.bardcc.org.uk](http://www.bardcc.org.uk)
- ✉ [info@becktonandroyaldockschildrenscentre.org.uk](mailto:info@becktonandroyaldockschildrenscentre.org.uk)

### Royal Docks Learning and Activity Centre

Learning and activity centre in Royal Docks.

- www.rdlac.org
- director@rdlac.org.uk
- @e16rdlac
- @e16rdlac

### Shipman Youth Zone

Youth Zone based at the Shipman Centre to enable young people to develop their voice, influence and place in society and work towards reaching their full potential.

- youth.zones@newham.gov.uk
- @shipmanyouthzone1bn

### Together South

Initiative to support refugees and non-EU migrants in South and East London, helping them to connect with and thrive in their communities by providing English language lessons, employment advice and community activities.

- www.groundwork.org.uk/projects/together
- bitenge.makuka@groundwork.org.uk
- @groundworkuk
- @groundworkuk

### West Silvertown Foundation

A resident-led charity working to build an inclusive community at our two community centres, Britannia Village Hall and Royal Wharf Community Dock.

- www.wsfroyaldocks.org
- hello@wsfroyaldocks.org
- @WestSilvertownFoundation
- @wsfroyaldocks
- @WestSilvertownFoundation

### Newham Green Gym

Green Gym at Eastham Nature Reserve

- www.newhamgreengym.org
- newhamgreengym@gmail.com

### PEACH

People's Empowerment Alliance for Custom House: building people power in Custom House to win affordable homes, safe streets, good jobs and better health.

- www.peach-e16.org.uk
- info@peach-e16.org.uk
- @PEACH\_E16
- @PEACH\_E16
- @PEACH\_E16

### Head Start Newham

An early help mental health programme building resilience & promoting wellbeing in 10-16 year olds.

- www.headstartnewham.co.uk
- headstart.programmeteam@newham.gov.uk
- @HeadStartNewham
- @HeadStartNewham
- @HeadStartNewham

### Richard House Children's Hospice

Children's Hospice that provides palliative care to children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions across London.

- www.richardhouse.org.uk
- info@richardhouse.org.uk
- @RichardHouseCH
- @RichardHouseCH
- @RichardHouseCH

### The Garden Community Cafe

The Garden Community Cafe is a charity run space in Custom House offering healthy affordable food and drinks, plus a range of community activities, events and projects.

- www.gardencommunitycafe.org
- gardencommunitycafe@gmail.com
- @gardencommunitycafe
- @TheGardenCaf
- @thegardencommunitycafe

# Bank of references

Street Space have created this bank of references made up of spaces and places suggested by local people that might provide inspiration for the future of Beckton Parks.

### The Beach!

Beaches were recommended as places to draw inspiration from as they provide a peaceful yet fun atmosphere for all the family. People like picking shells, making sand castles, eating ice creams and exploring rock pools and find the natural landscape meditative and calming.

### Greenwich Park

Greenwich Park is a large open hilly park with lots of trees and gardens. It was recommended because it is well-maintained and has varied landscapes including large and open green space, dense woodland, huge hills with beautiful views, well-kept gardens. Greenwich park is full of surprises!

### Hadley Castle

Hadley Castle is ruins set in the countryside overlooking an estuary. It was recommended because it provides employment opportunities for people with special educational needs and disabilities.

### Capel Manor College

Capel Manor College is a specialist environmental college located in Enfield, London. It was recommended for its educational programmes that support people to care for the natural environment.

### Cody Dock

Cody Dock is a thriving creative and community hub on the River Lea. It was recommended as a space that has successfully been created through the collaboration of local people and authentically brings people together to connect and work together.

### Epping Forest

Epping Forest is a very large woodland forest with grazing cattle. It was recommended because of how wild it is - making people feel as though they are in the countryside.

### Plaistow Park

Plaistow Park is a small green park with gardens. It was recommended for its vibrant flowers and pirate ship playground.

### Richmond Park

Richmond Park is a green park with woodland. It was recommended because of the acclimatised wild deer meadows.

### Walthamstow Wetlands

Walthamstow Wetlands is one of the largest urban wetland nature reserves in Europe. It was recommended for its programme of educational and engaging activities within the natural environment.



### Stave Hill Ecological Park

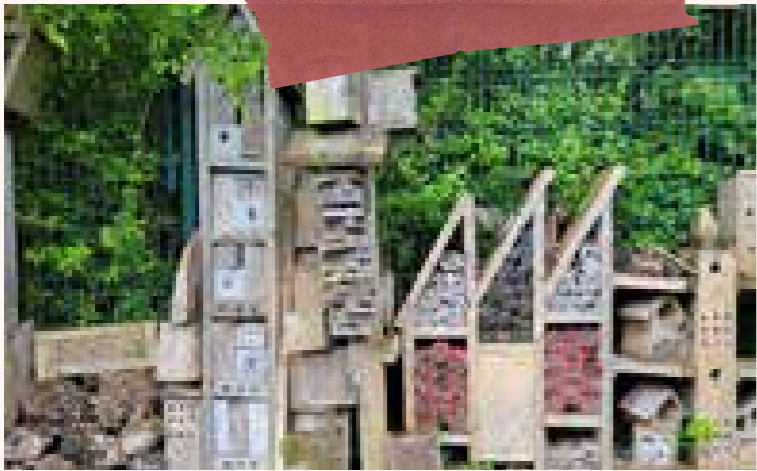
As part of our engagement we hosted a field trip to Stave Hill Ecological Park - a nature reserve, educational facility, research area and place of recreation. The park has been designed and managed to form a mosaic of grassland, woodland, scrub and wetland habitats which support a wide variety of wildlife.

#### Likes:

- Winding paths that encourage active discovery
- Natural, weaved and grown barriers, walls and fences
- QR codes and signage to support people to learn about what they can see
- The treasure map to show the range of things on offer in the park and help people navigate
- The orchard (similar to that already at Beckton Parks!)
- Wild spaces and the variety of different green, brown and blue landscapes
- Artwork created by community groups and students that encourage people to engage with the landscape in new ways

#### Dislikes:

- Some of the winding paths would not be accessible for wheelchair users
- Some of the wilder areas don't feel safe for some park visitors



### Surrey Docks Farm

As part of our engagement we hosted a field trip to Surrey Docks Farm! We learnt from Gemma, farm manager, how they use the animals and gardens to engage local communities in social, educational and healthy activities - including youth clubs, training for adults with learning disabilities, mental health groups and reminiscence sessions for older people.

#### Likes:

- The farm! Participants were excited by the farm animals, the ability to see, feed and engage with them in real life as a unique experience within the city
- The collaboration with the blacksmiths and cafe as private entities that support the farm to thrive
- Circular economy of the farm to use, reuse and recycle by-products to reduce waste (like rain water and composting!)
- Wheelchair accessible raised beds
- Education programmes that teach young people where their food comes from
- Support provision for people with SEND
- The cows that predicted the rain!



### What can we learn from these spaces for the future of Beckton Parks?

- The presence (and evidence) of people and community groups in the parks make them feel more welcoming and safe
- The provision of a variety of different things for a variety of different people within one space can help build communities
- Animals are particularly valuable for SEND peoples, young people and for those struggling with their mental health
- Surrey Docks Farm and Stave Hill Ecological Park are financially viable as they rely on multiple ways of making money across the public, private and charitable sectors
- Running a farm requires specialist knowledge to set up and manage, as do SEND programmes and youth provisions
- The ability to close the sites at night prevents trespassing, anti-social behaviour and vandalism.
- A successful farm takes years and years to build with significant investment of money and time



For more information about the project and how you can get involved please visit:

[www.newham.gov.uk/becktonparksmasterplan](http://www.newham.gov.uk/becktonparksmasterplan)

