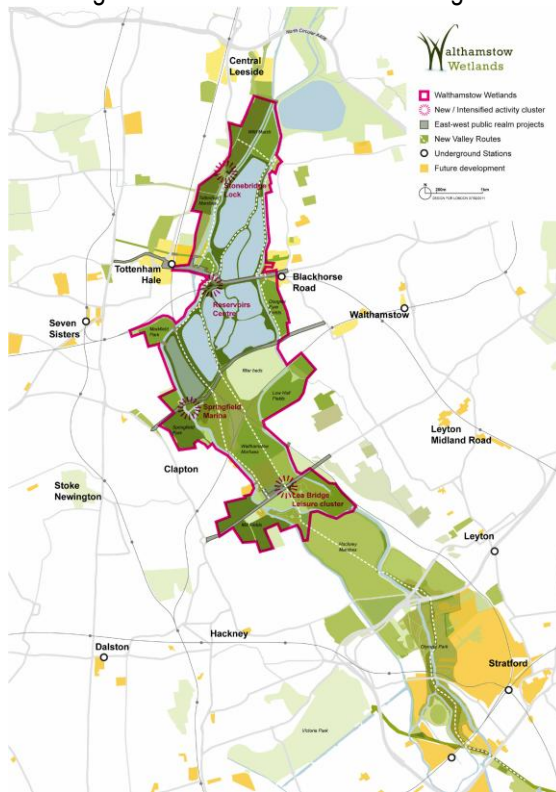


Hello Laura,

You wrote: ‘...A couple of years ago when I was in London my husband took me down Coppermill Lane and Sandy Lane. I was so shocked to see how things had altered. The railwayman’s house next to the old Coppermill bridge had been demolished completely and as children we walked down a deserted Sandy Lane to the river it is now unrecognizable with the industrial buildings and offices which have sprung up. How devastating to see such a change to an open space!..’



As you will know, the Walthamstow marsh areas that have always been a playground for Walthamstow residents, are run by the Lea Valley Conservancy Board. I’m sure that you will be pleased to learn that both they and Waltham Forest Council share your concern for the future of the area and have got together to decide how it can be improved and preserved for future generations.

As a result they have developed plans and made a bid for finances to the Heritage Lottery Fund so that they can deliver the largest urban wetland nature reserve in London which will provide a unique resource for local communities to access and enjoy. The improved access to nature and leisure activities is intended to benefit health and wellbeing and quality of life of local people. With a projected increase in visitor numbers, the Wetlands should also lead to the emergence of a visitor economy

and support physical regeneration plans in surrounding areas.



The project would see the 200 hectare site transformed into an urban wetlands nature reserve offering opportunities for accessing and learning about wildlife and nature conservation,

volunteering, training, walking, cycling, fishing, and enjoying the peace and tranquility of a unique space in the heart of North East London.

**Plans include:**

**Building Works**

- Renovation of Marine Engine House (locally listed disused pumping station) to house a visitor centre, multifunctional educational space, Viewing Terrace, café and exhibition
- Introduction of a viewing platform in the Coppermill Tower



**Landscape Works**

- New entrances at Lockwood Way, Forest Road and Coppermill Lane
- New foot and cycle path through the site
- New car and cycle parking area and boardwalk

**Habitat enhancements**

- New reed beds
- Habitat and planting works

Best wishes,

Bill Bayliss