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**10 years on**  
**Our unique contribution to**  
**London 2012's sporting legacy**



Bringing you



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# Introduction

A decade since the London 2012 Games, Lee Valley Regional Park Authority is at the heart of delivering the long term sporting legacy. Every year a million people visit the three stellar venues which are the jewels in the crown of the 10,000 acre Lee Valley Regional Park. Every week Lee Valley VeloPark, Lee Valley White Water Centre and Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre offer opportunities to people across the capital and further afield. Every day people can enjoy everything from community activities, leagues, and taster sessions to major events.

More than 11 million people have visited these venues since they opened to the public – to cycle, raft, paddle, play hockey and tennis in stunning settings, to watch friends take part, to see the world’s best at an almost non-stop series of major international events, or just to glimpse at where history was made. I am proud to say that we have managed to achieve all this while reducing our cost to the taxpayer.

However, these venues are not just about what has happened, they are about what is happening and what will happen. 10 years on from the Games, we are reaffirming our commitment to London and to the country that these venues will be accessible to all communities and part of the region’s core social infrastructure.

This document takes you through the achievements at the three legacy venues and explains the opportunities that are there for you and your communities. It shows how lives have been positively impacted, how our programmes are helping to reduce crime rates and pressure on the NHS and, of course, helping people to get active, healthier and have fun. It also shows how the knowledge we have developed through the Olympic and Paralympic Games has informed our plans to bring our next generation of world class leisure opportunities to the region. We are excited about these plans and want to share our expertise with others across the country.

COVID has proved – if anyone ever doubted it – that open space and leisure opportunities are essential for mental and physical wellbeing.

At the height of the pandemic, more than nine million people visited our open spaces in London, Essex and Hertfordshire, up from four million in a normal year, proving the vital nature of what we deliver.

The capital and the wider region are changing, and our offer will evolve to accommodate and reflect this change. In the next 10 years, more than 150,000 new homes are planned in the Lower Lee Valley – housing people who will need places to exercise and enjoy nature. Our 26 mile long park is fundamental to London’s vision for good growth, and our great venues – current and future – are intrinsic to London’s sports and leisure tapestry, the health of our communities and future generations of athletes. Our plans for the coming decade include bringing a 200 acre site in Hertfordshire into public use as a new piece of Lee Valley Regional Park, new sports facilities at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre, a new best in class ice skating venue, the first inland surfing venue for any capital city, steps to reduce our carbon footprint, improvements to our green spaces and new visitor accommodation to round out this growing offer.

We are also reaffirming our commitment to continue to break down barriers. Equitable access to open space, sports and leisure is vital to social cohesion, addressing health inequality and achieving sustainable and positive growth.

**20,000 people representing hundreds of different groups from every single London borough and every district of Hertfordshire and Essex have already enjoyed free access to our glorious sporting venues and open spaces thanks to our Community Access Fund which launched in 2015.**



This includes young offenders, people in danger of falling into crime, disadvantaged groups and people with mental health conditions. We are rebooting this fund this year with £80,000 to reach 4,000 people who, for reasons of cost or circumstance, may not otherwise be able to visit and take advantage of the inspirational sporting settings we own. This fund complements work we are doing with our local authority partners to address their own particular challenges and strategic priorities through our venues. This will be particularly evident at the new Lee Valley Ice Centre which will be building social value through community outreach, mental health and wellbeing schemes alongside employment and training opportunities.

In many ways, the Games were just a staging post along our 50 plus year history. They were an amazing time and a catalyst for delivery. What we have done to embed these venues into communities across the region since is arguably more impactful, certainly in the long-term and that story still has many chapters to come. Of course, we could not have achieved any of this without working closely with the host boroughs, the Olympic Delivery Authority, Locog, the Greater

London Authority, London Legacy Development Corporation, National Governing Bodies and a host of community organisations.

Read on to find out more and to understand how you could use our Community Access Fund, host an event with us or get involved in our other activities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Osborn'.

Paul Osborn  
Chair  
Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

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# From dumping ground to a Zone of Sporting Excellence

Half a century ago, the Lee Valley was a derelict and unloved post-industrial corridor, known as “London’s privy, workshop and backyard”. The River Lee was London’s working river and the valley was home to railway sidings, rubbish dumps, sewage works and factories. The land had been bombed, dug for gravel and building materials and largely ignored for many years.

During the Second World War, a collection of great minds had seen the potential for the Lee Valley and set out a plan to regenerate it as a ‘great playground for Londoners’.

This idea gathered pace and a Bill was promoted in Parliament to establish Lee Valley Regional Park Authority as the development body with the responsibility and the powers to deliver the vision for a vast leisure and recreational resource. Lee Valley Regional Park Authority was formally constituted on 1 January 1967.

Slowly the Authority brought neglected land back into use, welding together a Regional Park with award winning open spaces, internationally important wildlife habitats and cutting edge sports venues for communities across the region and beyond.

Back in the 1970s we built Europe’s largest leisure centre in Edmonton in the London Borough of Enfield and in the 1980s in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire we delivered Britain’s first swimming pool with a wave machine. Ground-breaking as these were at the time, by the 1990s changes in consumer demands and increased competition prompted us to review the ageing portfolio of venues and develop plans to replace some of them with new, state of the art venues which would offer more opportunities for local and regional audiences.



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## Key milestones in our sporting journey



2007  
Lee Valley Athletics Centre



2011  
Lee Valley White Water Centre



2014  
Lee Valley VeloPark



2014  
Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre



Winter 2022  
Lee Valley Ice Centre



2024 (estimated)  
The Wave London - subject to planning permissions and construction

In 2003 this approach was crystallised when we set out a vision for a 'Zone of Sporting Excellence' in the Lee Valley with world class venues drawing visitors from across the region and beyond. This Zone of Sporting Excellence included plans for an athletics centre which could be used by everyone from elite athletes to complete beginners. There was to be a cycling centre for racing, training, coaching, health and recreation which would be a breeding ground for future champions, for which we coined the phrase 'VeloPark'. The vision also set out plans for a white water centre, building on conversations with British Canoeing, the sport's National Governing Body, which began in 1999, about the potential for a white water centre in Lee Valley to capitalise on interest in the sport in London and the surrounding region.

When Lee Valley Athletics Centre opened its doors in 2007 at Picketts Lock in Edmonton, it was the first significant step on the Authority's journey to deliver a Zone of Sporting Excellence. This inclusive venue (pictured right), is at the heart of the community, catering for everyone from local schoolchildren and people who want to get fit to clubs from across the region, along with top athletes attending national and international competitions.



When the notion of London hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games was raised the Authority was a natural choice as a legacy partner. We brought to the table:

- Significant land ownership in the lower Lee Valley, including a quarter of the land on which the proposed Olympic Park would be built
- A unique statutory remit for sport and leisure, with substantial experience in delivering major leading edge sports venues which embody our 'community focused and commercially driven' business philosophy
- Existing plans for cycling and white water venues which had been developed with the sports' National Governing Bodies before the plans for a 2012 bid

Crucially the Olympic opportunity met our existing vision to deliver world class sporting venues throughout the Lee Valley. A VeloPark would have been built even if London had not won the right to host the Games, but London 2012 provided a catalyst for our ambitions,

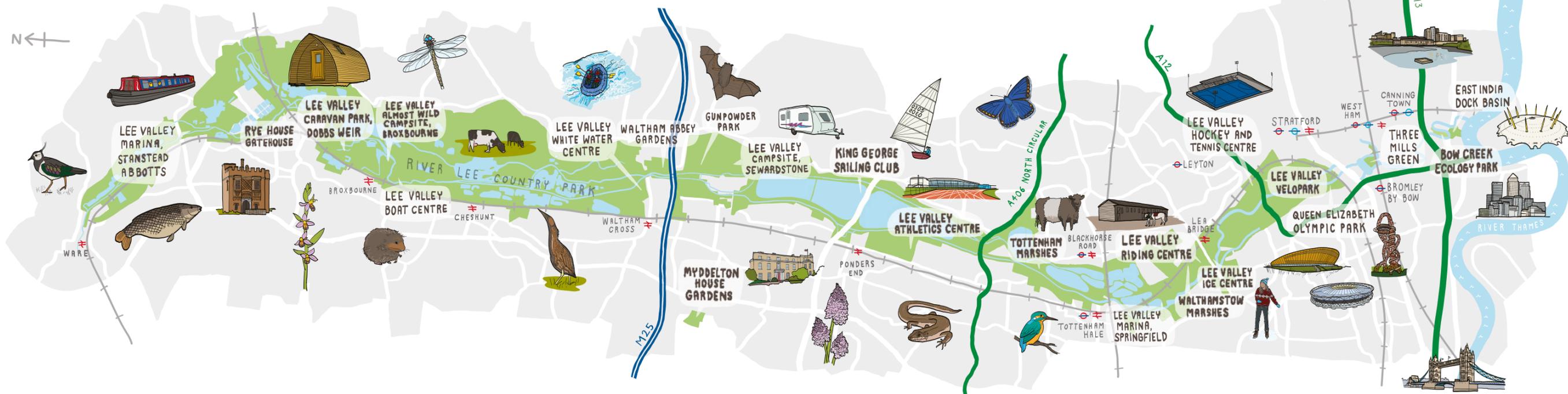
allowing us to shape the design of a bigger, world class venue and use the magic of the Games to inspire people from all walks of life to enjoy cycling.

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority was a ready-made legacy partner which would be responsible for the long term future of three of the proposed venues: Lee Valley White Water Centre, Lee Valley VeloPark and Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre.

These stellar venues have put the lower Lee Valley and Broxbourne, in the north of the park, on the national and international stage and provided a blueprint for future development.

And, as we've explained it does not stop there, our vision continues with the £30 million twin rink Lee Valley Ice Centre, due to open later in 2022 in Leyton in the London Borough of Waltham Forest, and plans for The Wave London, a £45 million inland surfing destination in Edmonton, the first of its kind in a capital city.

## Lee Valley Regional Park today



# Creating a long term sustainable legacy

The 10 year anniversary of the Games gives us an opportunity to take stock. Our three thriving venues are frequently held up as among the best examples of Olympic and Paralympic legacy in the world. Indeed such is our success that we have become a 'go-to' for legacy with planning teams from cities around the world visiting to learn how such a legacy is created, achieved and sustained.

From our experience, there are six key factors which have led to the successful sporting legacy at our venues.

## 1 A ready-made legacy partner

When London was awarded the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games on 6 July 2005 the Authority already had a clear vision and existing plans for a VeloPark and white water centre. We were then able to spend the best part of a decade finessing business and operational plans and ensuring that the venues would have a clear market.



## 2 Long term custodianship

Legacy was the lens through which every decision was considered and, in order to get it right, we learnt from previous host cities, journeying to Barcelona, Sydney, Athens and Beijing.

From lighting and sound systems to making a case for a second, gentler course at Lee Valley White Water Centre to broaden participation in paddlesports, we oversaw every decision and ensured that the venues had a "build once" philosophy. This not only allowed the venues to open to the public swiftly following the Games – Lee Valley White Water Centre reopened a mere six weeks after the Games – but saved costly and disruptive modifications afterwards.

Having a long term view and staff in place who would have ultimate responsibility for the success of these venues focused minds. While consistency of senior staff characterised the Olympic Delivery Authority, Locog, the Greater London Authority and the main contractors, it is particularly noticeable at Lee Valley Regional Park Authority. Chief Executive Shaun Dawson (pictured left) has been a constant presence throughout the process: from contributing to early feasibility discussions and being an active member of the bid team in Singapore to influencing the planning and design of a sustainable legacy for London 2012 and then leading the Authority in the delivery of three of the most successful Olympic legacy venues in the world.



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## 3 Community focused, commercially driven

Our three legacy venues embody the Authority's business philosophy of being community focused and commercially driven. Income generated from commercial activities provides crucial funding for grassroots and community outreach programmes, improving access to sport for a wide variety of groups while also ensuring the long term financial sustainability of the venues.

Community access remains at the heart of the venues and our drive to generate income does not affect our ability to provide sporting opportunities for everyone. As a result, around 90% of the programming across all three venues is for communities, schools and clubs.

Commercial activity also minimises the contribution from the taxpayer. Lee Valley Regional Park Authority draws part of its funding from a levy – around 81p per person per year – on the council tax payers of London, Hertfordshire and Essex. The business model for each of our legacy venues has allowed us to be as self-reliant as possible and over the past 10 years has taken the Authority from being dependent on the levy for 70% of its gross funding to just 35%. This enabled the Authority to take on responsibility for Lee Valley VeloPark, Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre and Lee Valley White Water Centre at a time when the levy was being reduced and it continued to be reduced or frozen in all but one of the years since.



## 4 A guaranteed future

On 1 April 2022, the Authority entered into a 10 year partnership with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL), covering our three legacy venues, plus Lee Valley Athletics Centre, Lee Valley Riding Centre and the forthcoming Lee Valley Ice Centre.

While the Authority will continue to own the venues, this partnership with GLL, the biggest leisure operator in the country, will see the venues benefit from GLL's wealth of operating experience, economies of scale and ideas around investment to keep the venues in their prime.

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# 5 Accessibility at the heart

A commitment to providing an inclusive and accessible sporting legacy has underpinned every aspect of the venues' design, ensuring they were built in a way that enables complete beginners, aspiring and top athletes to train in the very same venues used during the London 2012 Games.

This commitment also drives our programming, ensuring opportunities for clubs, schools and community groups, alongside elite athletes. Activities at our venues start at £6 and our Community Access Fund gives financial support to community groups and partners who would not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy our world class sports venues and open spaces.

The London 2012 Paralympic Games were the largest Paralympics ever held. Events attracted sell-out crowds and the incredible atmosphere easily rivalled that of the Olympics just weeks earlier. Paralympians were projected onto the world stage and were an inspiration to millions. We have partnered with providers to deliver award winning mental health initiatives and all-ability cycling and tennis programmes for wheelchair users, people with learning disabilities and Blind and partially sighted individuals. We have created dedicated programmes for local communities, run free festivals for schoolchildren and delivered initiatives to tackle inequality in cycling, increase participation among women and girls and provide opportunities for underrepresented communities to enjoy sports.

We have invested in equipment, including specialist adapted equipment, at each of the venues so that visitors can simply turn up and have a go. We offer opportunities for children as young as three, encouraging an early love of sport and ensuring that future generations benefit from our first class facilities and coaching.



# 6 Using major events to bring back the magic of the Games

**We have hosted five World Cups, two World Championships and 21 other major international events since London 2012.**

These events reignite the magic of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, introduce people to the thrills of live sport and bring them face-to-face with their heroes. Major events are also a core part of the venues' business plans – an important income generator and a brilliant way to inspire participation.

**It is fitting that in this tenth anniversary year Lee Valley VeloPark will host the track and para track cycling events for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, making it the only venue in the world to have hosted an Olympics, Paralympics, World Championship and Commonwealth Games in the same sport.**

We ensure there is a tangible legacy from events. We are currently working closely with British Canoeing to develop a programme around the 2023 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships. Our objective is to promote paddlesports to new audiences, identify future talent in local primary and secondary schools and fund paddlesports courses for local disadvantaged groups via our Community Access Fund.

**The Authority has given away 8,000 tickets to community groups and schools for live sporting events since the Games.**



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From top left: The Queen's Baton Relay arrives at Lee Valley VeloPark ahead of the Commonwealth Games; huge crowds at the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre; the UCI Track Champions League at Lee Valley VeloPark last December and the ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup at Lee Valley White Water Centre which brought together the best paddlers in the world

# Our London 2012 legacy venues

Day in day out Lee Valley Regional Park Authority's three legacy venues are central to the sporting legacy from the Games, positively impacting millions of lives each year.

**11,000,000**  
people have visited



**28** international major events since London 2012



**500,000**  
have taken part in paddlesports



**600,000**  
have cycled



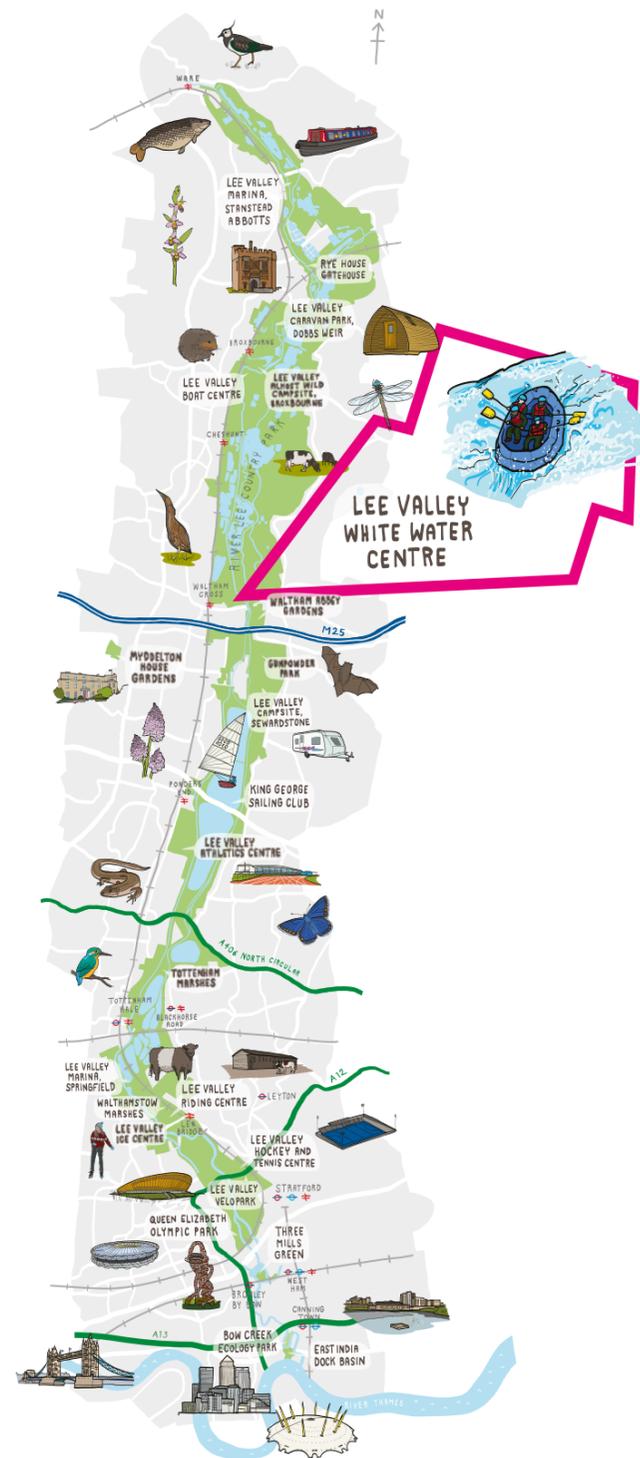
**20,000**  
people from disadvantaged groups have engaged in funded programmes



**300,000**  
have taken part in hockey and tennis



We have given away **8,000** tickets to major events



## Lee Valley White Water Centre

Lee Valley White Water Centre, in the Borough of Broxbourne in Hertfordshire, set in the picturesque 1,000 acre River Lee Country Park, is a world class visitor attraction offering adrenalin charged experiences alongside programmes for schools, clubs and communities and is the permanent base for British Canoeing's slalom team.

### An early legacy

In April 2011, Lee Valley White Water Centre became the first and only brand new London 2012 venue to open before the Games, giving members of the public the unique opportunity to try an Olympic venue ahead of the Games.

That year alone the venue drew 155,000 visitors, welcomed 126 school groups to learn about the centre and its role in the forthcoming Games, generated £2 million in revenue and set the bar for London 2012's sporting legacy.

### During the Games

Lee Valley White Water Centre hosted five days of intense canoe slalom events during London 2012, watched by 60,000 people. Team GB took Gold and Silver in a sensational historic final day of competition. The venue made history for a second time when it re-opened to the public just six weeks after the Games.



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## The legacy

**500,000** taken part in paddlesports

**5,700** participated in funded programmes

**3** major international events

From day one Lee Valley White Water Centre was a community focused centre, offering opportunities for everyone from paddling on the still waters of the crystal clear lake to building confidence on the 160m Legacy Loop. And, as Pam Phillips proves on page 17, with a bit of coaching, it is only a matter of time before you are hurtling down the 300m Olympic Standard Competition Course, whatever your age.

As a stellar visitor attraction, it draws thrill seekers looking for an unforgettable experience. White water rafting – running at least five days per week – is the most popular activity and there is also canoeing and kayaking, hydrospeeding, hot dogs, paddleboarding and an inflatable water wipeout course.

White water rafting is an unbeatable experience and perfect for corporate events. This has attracted hundreds of companies and organisations for team building, reward days and entertaining customers and clients. Earlier this year the centre featured on BBC1's The Apprentice and ITV1's The Games. Commercial activity helps to ensure that the venue is economically sustainable, facilitates discounted community access and keeps prices affordable. Introductory kayaking sessions and paddling the Legacy Loop start at just £10.

The venue is home to British Canoeing's canoe slalom World Class Performance Programme, providing daily water time for the slalom team and a hub for talent development.

The centre hosts major events throughout the national and international calendar, such as the forthcoming 2023 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships.

Several of British Canoeing's junior and senior athletes were home grown at Lee Valley White Water Centre, after being inspired to try the sport after London 2012. This has been reflected in the canoe slalom teams selected to represent Great Britain in 2022, including members of the Under 23 and Junior teams who have Lee Valley White Water Centre as their home club, with more who regularly train at the venue.

Among these is Bethan Forrow, from nearby Cheshunt who was handpicked for British Canoeing's talent programme and at just 14, was selected to represent Great Britain for the first time. Read Bethan's story on page 18.

The ability to identify potential and provide opportunities for athletes to develop in the sport and onto the world stage has been made possible thanks to the Authority and British Canoeing's foresight to build the Legacy Loop, which has played a crucial role in producing a new generation of champions.

Following a visit to Sydney's successful white water centre in Penrith, which regretted not building a second, gentler course to expand their market, the Authority led the charge to fund a second white water course to complement the rapids of the Olympic Standard Competition Course. For the Authority, this second course was key to broadening audiences, reducing barriers to participation, and developing new talent in the sport.

### Centre facilities

- 300m Olympic Standard Competition Course used for rafting and other adrenalin charged activities as well as competitions and daily training for British Canoeing's slalom team
- 160m Legacy Loop designed to improve the skills of canoeists and kayakers so they can eventually graduate to performing at a higher level and navigate the more demanding Olympic Course
- 10,000m<sup>2</sup> lake which feeds water to the two pumped courses and is where events and training sessions take place, particularly those aimed at novice paddlers
- Conference and meeting facilities plus a large café and bar



“ London 2012 was such an inspirational Games and Lee Valley White Water Centre was built as an amazing venue to host the canoe slalom competition. Since then it has been the training base for our Great Britain slalom team building on the legacy of London 2012, with new athletes living and training there to pursue their dreams on the international stage. It remains the best white water course in the world and we are very grateful to call it our home. ”

Mark Ratcliffe, Performance Director, British Canoeing

## Creating opportunities for communities

Lee Valley White Water Centre's community programmes and events are designed to open up paddlesports to everyone.

### Taking local children onto the rapids

Reducing crime and antisocial behaviour was the objective in a youth engagement project designed and funded by the Authority, Broxbourne Council and local social housing provider B3 Living.

The project, which ran for five years, was an opportunity to engage with teenagers living on a neighbouring estate and families living in areas with higher crime rates and fewer opportunities to enjoy regular sport and physical activity. We invited them to take part in a range of paddlesports at dedicated events over the Halloween period, a time when anti-social behaviour typically spikes.

This contributed to a notable reduction in reported crimes over the Halloween period and the event

opened up new opportunities for the participants. Several local residents took part in a further funded paddlesports programme and a handful became regular paddlers and active members of Lee Valley Paddlesports Club. Others took up opportunities to regularly volunteer at Lee Valley White Water Centre, which led to employment at the venue for a local mother of two living on a neighbouring estate.

Demand was so high for the events – with around 200 young people attending each one – that it led to the creation of an Easter event, with further opportunities for people to enjoy paddlesports and learn about the benefits of physical exercise and healthy eating.

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## From playground to podium

Over 2,500 local school children have been given the opportunity to try canoeing, kayaking and white water rafting at Lee Valley White Water Centre as part of British Canoeing's development programmes.

The programmes, which launched in 2012, saw six intakes at the venue. 135 children were initially selected to take part and have been supported through British Canoeing's England Talent Programme coaching team on a more intensive basis, paddling more than five times a week.

Athletes from the programme have gone on to compete for Great Britain at junior, Under 23 and senior level, winning medals at significant events. British Canoeing has transitioned four athletes onto the World Class Programme, including Phoebe Spicer who was just 12 when British Canoeing visited her school and hand-picked her for its Talent Identification Programme. Phoebe has since fast-tracked through the sport to compete on the international stage. In 2021 she placed 13th in the women's C1 in the U23 World Championships in Slovenia and she credits her transformative journey to Lee Valley White Water Centre.

## Lee Valley Paddlesports Club

Lee Valley Paddlesports Club was set up as a direct legacy of London 2012, formed by a volunteer group of paddlesports enthusiasts.

The Authority has provided discounted access and support for equipment to this thriving club, which was inspired in part by Team GB's sterling performance in the canoe slalom during London 2012. It now has over 380 members, from complete novices to elite athletes, making it one of the largest paddlesports clubs in the country.



Everyone in the world loves Lee Valley White Water Centre. For me personally it's about being confident on the water, I know the water here and I know how it will react. Having this quality of water – it's the best in the world – and the best performance environment for canoe slalom in the world, has made a massive difference to what I've been able to achieve.

**Mallory Franklin**, (pictured above), Great Britain's most successful female slalom canoeist, Silver medalist in the women's C1 at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics

It's absolutely invaluable to get these young people out of the area, off their estates, trying new experiences. A lot of them are very territorial, they stay on their estates, they don't feel safe to come out to different postcodes, they don't think they have the ability or skills to take part in white water rafting.

**Kimberley Newitt**, from Ealing Council Youth and Connexions team which has brought groups to the centre through our Community Access Fund

## Hear from our visitors

### Rediscovering love for white water against all odds

**Nick Kay** (pictured below) was inspired to get back into kayaking after watching the canoe slalom event during London 2012. Nick is now an active member of Lee Valley Paddlesports Club and attends paddling expeditions around the UK.

It nearly did not happen. At age 19, a motorcycle accident left Nick with a serious leg injury and reduced mobility, though he always took his fitness seriously and was a regular at the gym.

That changed in 2012 when the cost of his personal trainer jumped so Nick was looking for a new sport that would offer full body exercise, but still allowed him to sit down. As paddling is great for the legs and core muscles, it was a natural choice.

Nick became a member of Lee Valley Paddlesports Club and it was not long before he decided to try for the Legacy Loop assessment. "I passed in 2013, and it was so much fun," he says. He followed this with the Olympic Standard Competition Course assessment in 2019. While his leg injury still makes it a challenge to roll his boat upright following a capsize, the safe training environment at Lee Valley White Water Centre has helped Nick to improve his paddling skills to a point where he has been able to participate in his university club's overseas trips with greater confidence.

Some mobility challenges remain and getting in and out of the boat is tricky. "Lee Valley's ramps make a big difference," says Nick. "The travellers certainly help, as does the parking and the accessible changing rooms with their handgrips and seats. The people at Lee Valley are also very helpful."



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## Local netball star fast tracked to World Champion

**Bethan Forrow** was a talented netball player when British Canoeing coaches visited her school as part of a London 2012 Olympic Legacy Talent Identification Programme in 2013.

Despite never having been in a canoe, she demonstrated all the right attributes to succeed in the sport and was selected for the programme along with 16 other youngsters.

Bethan (pictured below) began training at Lee Valley White Water Centre, less than two miles from her family home in Cheshunt, and with intensive coaching she has successfully fast tracked through the sport to compete in both the C1 and K1 classes on the international stage.

At age 14, Bethan became the programme's first athlete - and the first Lee Valley Paddlesports Club member - to qualify for a British team, after winning the junior selection trial in women's C1.

Bethan went on to qualify for the senior team in C1 when she was just 16, and made her senior debut at the 2018 European Championships in Prague where she went on to win Gold in the women's C1 Team event and finished ninth in the C1 individual. She finished the season with a World Championship C1 team Gold.

In 2021 Bethan was crowned Under 23 C1 World Champion and was an Under 23 C1 Silver medallist at the 2021 Canoe Slalom European Championships.

"To be able to say that I was Under 23 World Champion is amazing and I couldn't have done that without the British Canoeing programme and Lee Valley White Water Centre," says Bethan who has her sights set on Paris 2024 and winning her first Olympic medal. "It's a privilege to be able to have this kind of access. Some people have made their careers here, you walk around the centre and their faces are all over the walls, it's such a drive to see what they managed to achieve here."



## Aged 72 and a self-confessed kayaking addict with no intention of stopping

As **Pam Phillips** was tackling the Olympic Standard Competition Course with her paddling buddy, a thought occurred to her. She realised the age gap between them was 56 years. "Paddling brings the generations together," she says. "We compete against our own anxieties, our own capabilities. We're there to support each other."

Back when it was announced that Lee Valley White Water Centre would be a London 2012 host venue Pam (pictured above) thought the closest she would ever get to it was walking past it with her dog.

She even took a photo of the towering course created for the world class athletes and sent it to friends, saying "rather than me!"

Until that point, Pam had never been in a kayak or on water and did not plan to start in her seventh decade. But her interest was piqued when the Games got underway and she and her husband watched one of the canoe slalom events.

In 2015, Pam received an invitation to introductory canoeing lessons as part of a programme which was part funded by the Authority in collaboration with Sport England's 'This Girl Can' campaign which encouraged more women and girls to get involved in sport.

Since then Pam has been a regular at the centre, paddling up to four hours a week, and honing her skills further on paddling trips to rivers across England, Scotland and Wales.

The connection she has built with fellow paddlers has been a major factor in her progress. She passed the assessment to paddle on the Olympic Course two weeks before her 70th birthday. "It was all about the people," she says. "I'd been paddling with a regular group of paddle buddies who had progressed. I wanted to be out there on the big course with them."

Pam was keen to share her passion for kayaking with others, and it was not long before she was encouraging her fellow Waltham Abbey u3a (University of the Third Age) members to have a go.

Pam was helped by the Authority's grant scheme, which provided funding towards a course of structured lessons for u3a members from across Hertfordshire and Essex.

Three years later and the u3a courses are still going strong and a handful of u3a members have gone on to join Lee Valley Paddlesports Club to attend further training and paddle the Legacy Loop.

# Lee Valley VeloPark

Lee Valley VeloPark, in the London Borough of Newham on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is *the* one stop cycling destination – the only place in the world to offer the four Olympic cycling disciplines in one location: track in the velodrome, BMX on a remodelled Olympic track, alongside miles of challenging mountain bike trails and a one mile floodlit road circuit.

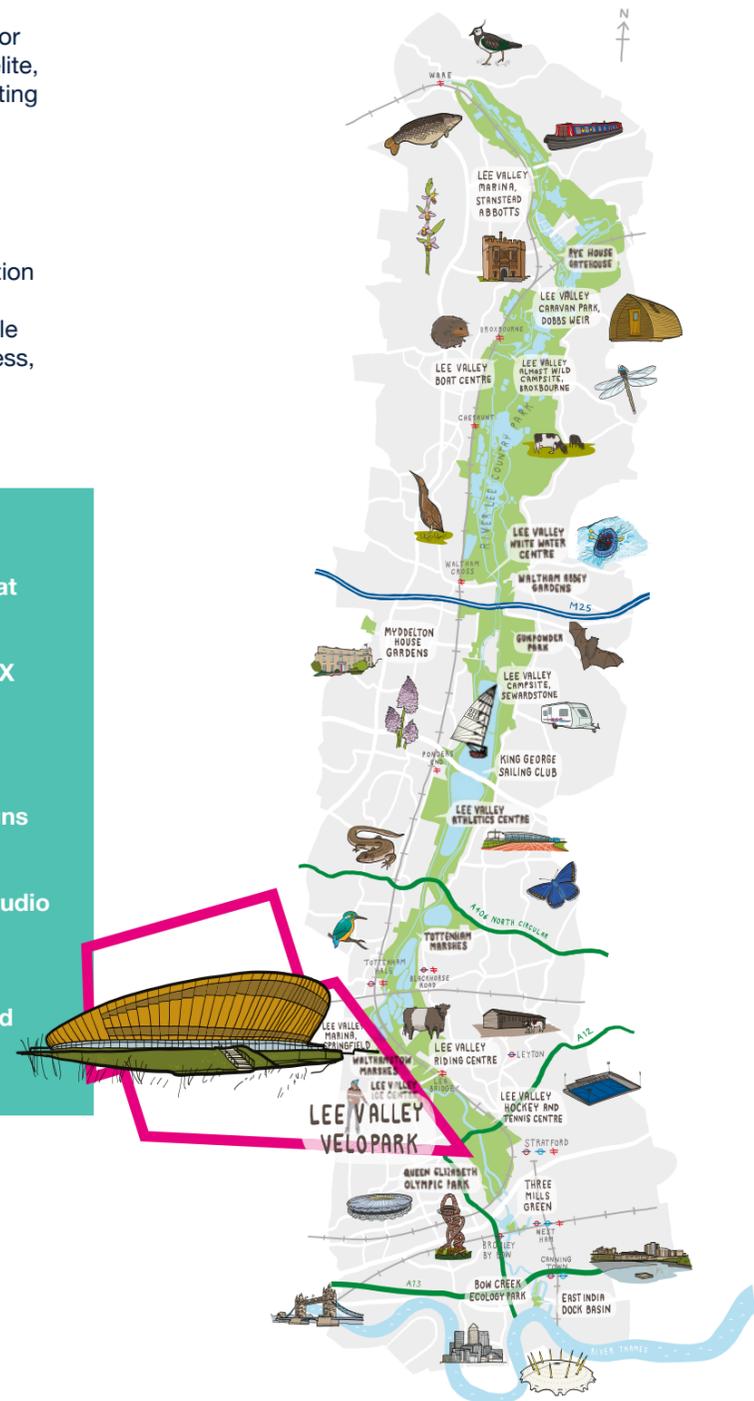
This inspiring venue offers cycling opportunities for everyone with an extensive programme of club, elite, community and school activity, in addition to hosting major events in front of sell-out crowds.

## During the Games

The velodrome saw some of the most thrilling action of the whole Games. Team GB dominated the track winning seven out of 10 possible Golds while ParalympicsGB continued the phenomenal success, scooping 15 medals - five Gold, seven Silver and three Bronze.

### Centre facilities

- World's fastest track in the iconic 6,000 seat velodrome
- BMX on a remodelled, floodlit Olympic BMX track
- A one mile floodlit road circuit
- Mountain biking on trails graded like ski runs into blues, reds and blacks
- State of the art indoor 28 station cycling studio
- Café, conference and meeting space and a stunning 3,500m<sup>2</sup> track centre which has hosted speeches by Prime Ministers, award ceremonies, exhibitions and conferences



“ Lee Valley VeloPark is more than just about international events. It is used throughout the year by local clubs and the wider community, who are able to utilise the investment into world class facilities on their doorstep. It is also the home of our first City Academy, which will expand the reach of British Cycling’s talent pathways into those communities which may have previously viewed cycling as being out of their reach. “

As more showpiece occasions return to Lee Valley VeloPark and with the venue continuing to be an important hub for British Cycling’s development plans for the sport, I can only see the legacy of London 2012 becoming increasingly embedded in the years to come.

**Brian Facer, Chief Executive Officer, British Cycling**

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## The legacy

 **600,000** cycled

 **500** school visits a year

**3,500** participated in funded programmes 

 **500** club bookings a year

 **5,800** tickets provided to community groups for major events

 **15** major international events

The transformation from Olympic venue to the community focused Lee Valley VeloPark was swift and seamless, with plans to lower the BMX ramp and build the road and mountain biking courses designed in from the very beginning.

The venue successfully blends community and elite programmes, catering for first time riders through to those at the peak of the sport, competing at international events. There are dedicated sessions for over 40s, female track cyclists and cyclists with disabilities, BMXercise sessions for female BMX riders and specialist toddler sessions using mini-balance bikes.

Lee Valley VeloPark has hosted major cycling events including World Cups, World Championships and Track Champions Leagues, along with Six Day London, Revolution and world record attempts. These sell-out events introduce people to the thrills of live cycling events and enable fans to follow their sporting heroes.

Corporate conferences, meetings and team building days for FTSE 100 companies among many others, are key revenue streams along with large scale cycle rides and fundraising events such as BBC Comic Relief and BBC Sport Relief. Earlier this year Pringles launched its 'Mind Popping' campaign with a stunning lightshow projected onto the side of the building, and ITV1's prime time show The Games broadcast from there. These uses provide valuable commercial income and help to subsidise community programmes without impacting track time.

Lee Valley VeloPark has been making history since it opened its doors. This summer it will host the track and para track cycling events for the Birmingham 2022

Commonwealth Games, making it the only venue in the world to have hosted an Olympics, Paralympics, World Championship and Commonwealth Games in the same sport.

In late 2022 the College of Esports will move into Lee Valley VeloPark, delivering Foundation and Bachelor Degrees in international Esports business areas creating a long term learning hub for people from the local community and further afield and adding another major establishment to Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park's education offer.



On a personal level, the Come Ride with Us sessions at Lee Valley VeloPark have been invaluable to me. They have allowed me to develop my cycling skills in a safe environment and allowed me to practise using my gears more efficiently. As a mother of four young children these sessions are a respite for me, a brilliant form of self-care and an opportunity to be with my community.

**Mona**, a regular at the Come Ride with Us events hosted by Black Unity Bike Ride at Lee Valley VeloPark

## Creating opportunities for communities

Lee Valley VeloPark is committed to increasing participation in cycling by offering initiatives aimed at all corners of the community, from schoolchildren to disadvantaged and disability groups.



### Putting local children on the track to success

The Authority collaborated with the Olympic host boroughs, Access Sport and British Cycling to deliver five new BMX tracks before the Games began. One of the tracks was built using earth that was washed and cleaned from Olympic Park and all were purposefully located in disadvantaged and high footfall areas to build interest in BMX among young people living in areas where there were few opportunities for cycling and physical exercise.

No one imagined just how successful these tracks would be or the profound impact they would have. A decade on and these tracks and their resident BMX clubs have created a community for London BMXing and given thousands of local children a pathway to training on the BMX course at Lee Valley VeloPark. A prime example is Hackney BMX Club, based at the track in Haggerston Park, where each week around 60 children turn up and pay just £2 per session which includes access to equipment and coaching.

### Tackling inequality in cycling

In 2021 the Authority began supporting the British Cycling City Academies Programme with Lee Valley VeloPark playing host to a British Cycling City Academy event in 2022. This programme is designed to improve the gender balance in cycling, increase involvement from underrepresented communities and encourage greater engagement with young people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

British Cycling recruited and upskilled local coaches and supported them in hosting fun entry-level skills activities with children in the London Boroughs of Hackney and Newham.

The Authority will continue to support this initiative, enabling participants to cycle at the venue at discounted rates.

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## Hear from our visitors and partners

### Complete beginner to 10 times national champion paracyclist

**Matthew Robertson** was 13 when he was captivated by the spectacle of London 2012 on his television screen. Despite not being able to ride a bike, he decided there and then that he wanted to be a champion too. Today, he is a paracyclist for the Great Britain Cycling Team.

Without Lee Valley VeloPark, Matthew (pictured below right) would never have learnt to ride the track, let alone have the opportunity to train in the same place as his Olympic heroes, or forge Olympic dreams of his own.

Matthew has right sided hemiplegia, a neurological condition that affects the part of the brain that controls movement. But he was not going to let that stop him from achieving his ambitions.

He set his heart on cycling after watching Sir Chris Hoy make history winning his sixth Gold medal in the men's Keirin at London 2012. "There was this lightbulb moment, I knew I wanted to do that," says Matthew reflecting on the moment that was to change the course of his life forever.

Matthew joined Woolwich Cycling Club and taught himself to ride on the road for two years before heading to Lee Valley VeloPark.

"The fact that this world class Olympic venue opened up locally meant I could jump on the track almost straight away and progress quickly. It gave me opportunities I never thought I'd have. I'd still be watching sport on TV if it weren't for Lee Valley VeloPark. I certainly wouldn't have broken the world record in the C2 flying 200m in 2019," he says.

It was not long before the 23 year old from Greenwich was talent spotted and trying out for British Cycling at their headquarters in Manchester. He made the cut and has since competed around the world, but to this day, Matthew attributes his success to Lee Valley VeloPark.

"It changed my life forever, I simply wouldn't have been able to develop my skills so early on in my career if I hadn't been able to train at Lee Valley VeloPark," he says.

"The fact I transformed from an amateur to a professional athlete in just eight years is mind blowing – and it's all thanks to Lee Valley VeloPark."

Matthew just missed out on a spot on the GB team at Tokyo but has his sights firmly set on Paris 2024.



This is a moment to be proud and think about how many people have been inspired to come to Lee Valley VeloPark and try track, road, BMX or mountain biking. I'm so looking forward to competing there again at the Commonwealth Games.

**Dame Laura Kenny**, Britain's most successful female Olympian



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## A cycling experience for everyone

Social enterprise **Bikeworks** was inspired by London winning the bid for the Games. Founding partners Zoe Portlock and Jim Blakemore (pictured above, second from left with Sports Minister Nigel Huddleston and West Ham MP Lyn Brown) wanted to harness the once in a lifetime opportunity to enable everyone to experience cycling at a world class venue regardless of barriers or ability.

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority shared this vision and, in addition to Lee Valley VeloPark becoming a base for Bikeworks in 2018, the Authority provided funding for all ability bikes and for 18 young people from underrepresented groups to complete a cycle maintenance course.

Bikeworks offers free All Ability Cycling Clubs specifically targeted at disadvantaged groups. The aim is to give participants an opportunity to try a range of cycles and then continue their engagement through attending regular weekly club sessions. For many members this weekly club session is their only opportunity for physical exercise every week and a valuable opportunity for social interaction with staff and other members.

Bikeworks has grown considerably over the past 10 years through new initiatives such as Cycling for Wellbeing, a free, inclusive cycling programme designed to address the needs of people in East London experiencing a wide range of health issues such as anxiety, stress or depression, severe mental health issues, social isolation or anyone wanting to do more physical exercise to reduce the risk of obesity

or diabetes. Bikeworks' Side by Side Cycle Taxi has also been a huge success, offering a four wheeled cycling taxi service transporting participants around London in order to enable those with mobility issues or feeling socially isolated to access cycling in a social environment.

With a new Inclusive Cycling Centre of Excellence opening in late 2022, just a stone's throw from Lee Valley VeloPark, Bikeworks will offer more programmes and more opportunities for everyone to enjoy the benefits of cycling.

Lamin, a Cycling for Wellbeing participant attended eight sessions in Victoria Park and took part in a ride to Three Mills Green in East London, said "Now I can't wait to enjoy riding my bike around these beautiful places rather than be sitting at home, watching TV and feeling lonely... You guys wouldn't know how happy I am on the inside all the time when I am riding with everyone!"

Kulsum, a Cycling for Wellbeing participant from Plaistow, who had not ridden a bike for 45 years, said "Since cycling my knee pain has gone, my cholesterol has gone down, and I have been struggling with that for years! I don't want to let go of cycling now. We live about a mile away from Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and we never knew about these places. Now we come here for walking and bring our grandchildren here."

## Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre

Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre at Eton Manor in the London Borough of Waltham Forest is the northern gateway to Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. A premier venue for both sports, it offers two of the best hockey pitches in the country and 10 tennis courts – four US Open Standard ones in an elegant indoor hall, and six outdoors.

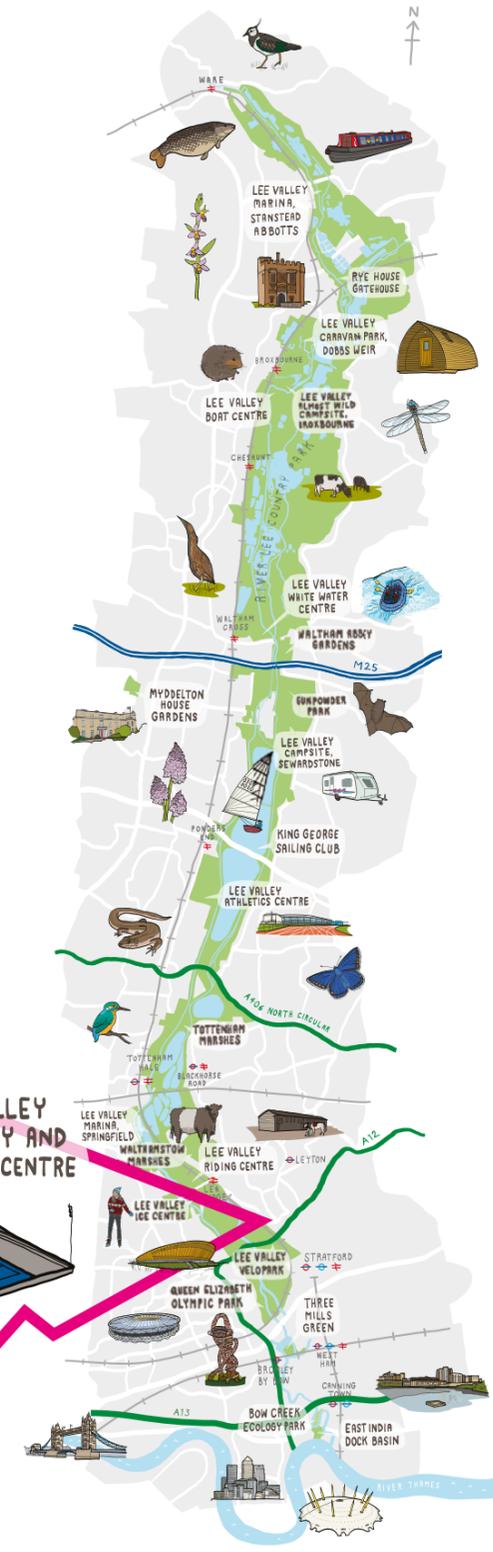
## During the Games

Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre was the only purpose-built Paralympic venue for London 2012, centred on the site of the Authority's Eastway Sports Centre which had a multi-sports hall, squash complex and pitches in an area with a sporting history going back to 1923. During the Games it hosted the Wheelchair Tennis Competition.



The addition of the public facilities at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre, in particular the indoor provision, in this area of London has had a really positive impact in attracting new people to the sport for the first time and giving existing players the opportunity to play more..

**Scott Lloyd, Chief Executive, Lawn Tennis Association**



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Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre is known as the “Wembley of English hockey” with two top grade pitches playing host to regional, national and international tournaments, as well as schools and clubs from across the region. The venue is home to six hockey teams, nine university clubs and is a regional centre for coaching, umpiring and workforce development.

Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre also runs a number of competitions such as the Summer League, catering for all abilities and the Big Blue for starter and back to hockey players. In addition to these popular events the venue hosts the annual Lee Valley University Cup and the Lee Valley Mixed Masters League for senior male and female hockey players, the first of its kind in the UK.

Working with England Hockey, local clubs, schools and community organisations the venue runs a range of exciting hockey programmes following England Hockey’s national frameworks and initiatives to support club development, catering for their training and league requirements.

### Centre facilities

- Four indoor US Open Standard tennis courts
- Six outdoor tennis courts
- Two of the best hockey pitches in the country
- 4,000 seat main hockey stadium with the ability to add extensive temporary seating
- Meeting space and café

There is extensive pay and play tennis, lessons for both adults and children of all abilities and free tennis coaching for local schools and community groups.

Little Smashers sessions introduce children from the age of four to the basics of tennis and gradually develops them through a set of nationally recognised programmes.

Building on the success of the London 2012 Paralympic Wheelchair Tennis event, Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre has become a regional hub for disability tennis offering regular sessions and events for wheelchair users.

The venue has hosted major events including the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters, the FIH Hockey Pro League, the Unibet EuroHockey Championships, the Men’s and Women’s Hockey Champions Trophy, the Hockey World League semi-finals and the Vitality Women’s Hockey World Cup which drew 120,000 spectators.

Since it was built, having Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre available to us has made a huge difference to hockey in this country.

In terms of participation, there are many local men’s and women’s teams who use it as their home venue, and a number of our Flyerz events have also taken place there for players who are differently abled, helping different groups to access the sport. We have worked closely with the venue to host a number of community outreach and development initiatives linked to our major events programme.

The venue has also helped us to develop the best young talent with our national schools finals taking place there, and last but by no means least, our international events will live long in the memory, most notably the Vitality Hockey Women’s World Cup in 2018 when more than 120,000 people purchased tickets.

The sport is very fortunate to have such a great facility available to it at all levels of the game.

**Nick Pink, Chief Executive, England Hockey**

## Creating opportunities for communities

Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre is broadening participation in hockey and tennis and providing opportunities for everyone to play the sports. The venue hosts sessions for participants with learning disabilities, wheelchair users and for people with mental health conditions.



### Tennis for wellbeing

Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre works in partnership with Core Arts, a leading mental health creative education centre based in Hackney, and the East London NHS Foundation Trust to deliver a programme which uses tennis as a vehicle towards positive mental wellbeing.

These tennis sessions are part of the Lawn Tennis Association’s (LTA) nationwide Open Court programme for beginners, intermediate and advanced players. They include a mixture of drills, coaching by the venue’s LTA coaches and match play.

The three-way partnership enables the organisations to work collaboratively to identify a number of shared aims and objectives and since it launched in 2015 over 100 people with mental health conditions have taken part, with a group of 15 regularly playing each week.

75% of members report that they use their GP, A&E and emergency services less often, or not at all, and feel they have more of a social support network as a result of their participation. 95% say that they now use sport as a coping tool when feeling low, stressed, anxious or depressed.

In addition to these successes, three Core Arts members are completing their Level 1 LTA coaching qualification. The plan is for these individuals to run peer-led tennis sessions in their local community.

One Core Arts participant said, “I look forward to tennis every week, it is the highlight of my week and makes a real difference to my life.”

Natasha, another Core Arts participant said, “It sounds very dramatic to say that tennis is what you’re living for each week, but these sessions are really, really important to me.”

## Bringing sport to new groups

Inspired by London 2012, Hackney Council created The London Borough of Hackney **New Age Games** programme in 2011, aimed at encouraging residents over 50 to participate in physical activity sessions to boost their health and wellbeing and break down the barriers of social isolation.

Since 2015, the New Age Games programme has delivered free indoor tennis at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre. This not only ensures local residents benefit from the world class venue, but also instils a sense of pride and ownership in the facilities and encourages them to reflect on their part in the Olympic and Paralympic story and its legacy.

“Post Games, it was important the legacy was not forgotten and that local residents were able to have access to the world class facilities on their doorstep, says Hackney Council’s Sport & Physical Activity Co-ordinator Darren English.

“This was achieved via a good partnership with Lee Valley who enabled us to provide indoor tennis to residents age 50 plus which, in turn, minimises barriers to regular participation.

“Participants have spoken of the benefits of taking up a new sport, such as reduced blood pressure and glucose levels, the ability to maintain a healthy weight, improved fitness and mobility and reduced feelings of depression and anxiety. The opportunity to meet new people and learn new skills also helps to combat social isolation. Many would never have visited Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre had it not been for this initiative.”

Hazel Frazer from Hackney (pictured top right), said “My first session at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre was amazing. I felt privileged to have such a wonderful facility where I could learn to play tennis. I’ve met like-minded people on the courts and formed friendships, which has seen me socialise more outside of tennis, which aids my emotional wellbeing.”



On a Thursday night here it’s like London 2012 again. I was here during London 2012 for the Paralympics and now I feel as important as one of those players. The courts we play on are surfaces designed for professionals.

This is our national jewel in the crown and it’s brilliant coming here. The facilities are top class, level access throughout and it’s so easy getting in here with automatic doors and nearby Blue Badge parking.

**Tracey Proudlock** (pictured above), wheelchair tennis player from Haringey

## Reaching new heights

**Tower Hamlets Hockey Club** was formed to give children from underprivileged minority communities the chance to play the game, but a lack of facilities in the borough threatened to stop the initiative in its tracks. Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre offered to become the club’s official home and now this team, which reflects the rich diversity of Tower Hamlets, is flying high on success.

Indeed, Tower Hamlets Hockey Club has a lot to celebrate during this, the six year anniversary of its formation. The team won the league title again in 2022 making for five league titles in six seasons. They were also runners up in the National Cup in 2020.

Yet while the talent of these youngsters is clear to see, the story could have been very different.

Tower Hamlets Hockey Club coach and local councillor Abdul Wahid Ali explains, “Tower Hamlets Hockey Club was created six years ago to offer kids from minority communities the opportunity to play and develop their hockey skills and give them a positive activity to keep them off the streets and out of trouble. But we started under a dark cloud, not being able to have access to facilities in our own home borough.

“Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre became our home. That was purely because there was an endeavour from the people who work there to actually want kids from Tower Hamlets, who better reflect the community, to play, which completely goes against the grain of what you would expect from the regular hockey community.

“Obviously, to be playing here is a great motivating factor for all our kids. They’ve seen the Women’s World Cup and hockey league games here and it’s fantastically inspiring for them to see and understand that the legends of the game, the women and the men who play for Team GB and England, have played on the same pitch that they are now playing on. It’s a privilege to play in world class facilities and to call this our home.”

Shuhel Malique was part of the England Junior International team in his youth and a former National League player. Now he passes on his knowledge and expertise to aspiring athletes as a Tower Hamlets Hockey Club coach and Director for East Region Hockey.

Shuhel says, “We started out as young kids playing on a concrete pitch at Hackney Marshes – it wasn’t even a real pitch – and using borrowed hockey sticks, but it didn’t hold us back, we were winning national titles and comfortably beating the largest schools with the very best training facilities. Now we train in a world class venue which is celebrated as ‘the home of hockey’. For our kids and the whole community, that’s inspirational.

“I think we’re the only club which targets groups from Black, Asian and other ethnic minority communities and deprived, less affluent backgrounds. 90% of our players reflect the true local community, coming from Waltham Forest, Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets. We are currently looking into setting up a second team for young girls in the inner city, to give them more opportunities and positive experiences.”



# Planning for the future

As we look to the next 10 years, we are reaffirming our commitment to ensuring that these venues remain in their prime and continue to serve the needs of the changing capital and the wider region. We will bring more exciting experiences and opportunities to them and invest in their facilities, with a view to ensuring a greener and more sustainable future.

**To reduce the carbon footprint and halve the lighting bill of the venue we have just completed an £800,000 project to install LED lighting in the velodrome.**

This follows a £45,000 project to replace floodlights on the venue's BMX track with LEDs which has the added benefit of allowing us to hold more competitions there – not only are LEDs greener but they provide more light. We plan to install LEDs at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre and Lee Valley White Water Centre.

We are exploring the possibility of a new covered BMX track, allowing participation in this popular sport whatever the weather.

At Lee Valley White Water Centre we will be installing a new start ramp for Extreme Slalom – an exciting paddling variant debuting at the Paris 2024 Olympic

## New spaces and places

Away from the three legacy venues, plans for the next generation of sporting venues and open spaces are informed by everything we have learnt over the past 10 years. Accessibility is at the heart of everything we do, providing opportunities and removing barriers so that our venues reach all parts of the community.

Our next generation of venues, such as the best in class £30 million twin rink Lee Valley Ice Centre, opening later this year, are born from the expertise we have gained during the past decade, delivering excellence in both sports and conservation. This includes integrating features for wildlife into buildings, such as a biodiverse roof and wildlife boxes which were built into Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre, the creation of diverse wildlife-rich habitats surrounding the venues which support and link the biodiverse landscapes of the wider park.

and Paralympic Games. We are creating new meeting and private hire spaces and a “wet classroom” alongside the lake for rafters and paddlers to be briefed on their white water experience.

We have plans for the wider Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre site to become a major new community and student sports hub in partnership with UCL East who are bringing thousands of students to their huge new campus in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. We are working with them and a number of other partners to grow and evolve the site as a hub for sporting participation and excellence. We believe this would be a more substantial northern entrance to Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and are exploring the possibility of visitor accommodation on the site, which could support activities across Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, particularly events at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre.

Our world class sporting offer, our award winning open spaces and internationally important wetland habitats are underpinned by our vision to work with partners and communities to conserve, create, restore and enhance the biodiversity of the park, providing access to and appreciation of the area, as set out in the Lee Valley Regional Park Biodiversity Action Plan. This includes providing opportunities for visitors to flow from our venues into the rich habitats that surround them and appreciate the inherent value of these landscapes.

Our programmes will directly respond to the evolving needs and challenges faced by today's capital, reducing physical inactivity, aiding mental health and wellbeing and providing positive experiences for young people most at risk of falling into crime.

## A new country park

Our regeneration role continues with a new project at **Spitalbrook**, next to Broxbourne station in Hertfordshire. The site was worked for gravel extraction in the 1980s and 90s and has been closed off to the public. There is huge potential to restore and enhance the grassland, woodland and wetland habitats found on Spitalbrook – at 200 acres the site is five times bigger than central London's Green Park. We see a great opportunity to bring it back into public use, creating a new country park which supports these important habitats alongside engaging new audiences with nature through outdoor recreation and other leisure facilities, tying into development options around the station.

## Investing in open spaces

A significant programme of investment in the park's open spaces is being developed for delivery over the next five years. Many of the schemes are required by, or funded through, planning agreements. These are linked to new development taking place next to, or within, the park.

This work is connected to our desire to ensure that the park can provide sustainable leisure opportunities for growing populations for whom the open spaces of the park have never been more important.

Projects include:

- Providing a new water supply to Middlesex Filter Beds in Leyton. This was once part of London's drinking water infrastructure and the project will enhance the biodiversity value of the degraded reedbed habitat on site
- Creating a new footpath to access new areas of open space for the public at St Paul's Field near Nazeing, Essex



- Improving pathways and visitor facilities in the north of the park
- Habitat enhancements throughout the park
- Restoring the River Lynch to a naturally functioning chalk stream

In addition, we are working closely with a range of partners on two major funding applications to improve important areas of open space and create new leisure attractions:

- A £600,000 heritage partnership project at Waltham Abbey Gardens in Essex, once the site of one of the largest Augustinian abbeys in the country. It will mark out the boundaries of historic buildings, restore scheduled ancient monuments and improve biodiversity in fishponds and a moat. This would be accompanied by a programme of education, events and activation and is in partnership with English Heritage and Epping Forest District Council
- A project of up to £5 million at East India Dock Basin in Tower Hamlets, just opposite the O2, is being led by the Authority and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. This includes the restoration of the lock gates at this historic site, the removal of silt in the basin itself, which will restore the original more biodiverse habitat, create a visitor centre, improved entrances and connectivity with the surrounding area



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## Lee Valley Ice Centre

The stunning new Lee Valley Ice Centre will open in winter 2022 and will be one of only three Olympic-sized twin rinks in the UK and the only venue of its kind in the south east. It will have the capacity to attract over 500,000 visits a year.

Inspired by our three legacy venues Lee Valley Ice Centre will embody the Authority's philosophy of running sports venues that combine community and elite use. A replacement for our old venue, which opened in 1984 and had reached the end of its operational life, it will be a community hub and a setting off point for people visiting the nearby open spaces with a gym, café and community spaces for anyone to use. It will attract world class skaters, grassroots enthusiasts, school and community groups and many who have never tried skating before, with the twin rinks allowing us to cater for a range of audiences at the same time.

The venue is in a parkland setting, much like Lee Valley White Water Centre, and will be accompanied by a host of environmental improvements to the surrounding area – 120 new trees planted, wetland habitats and native grassland meadows will radically boost the biodiversity in the area. In addition, biodiverse features have been incorporated into the building – wildlife boxes will provide a safe space for species to rest, breed and hibernate.

Daily ice scrape and melt from the two ice pads will be cleaned and filtered and returned to the building for use as greywater to flush toilets. Some of the



excess water, along with that collected by the roof, will be discharged into the River Lee via the nearby Ox Bow Lake to improve the condition and flow of the water. The meltwater filtration ponds will be planted with native and wetland species and will attract dragonflies, reptiles and amphibians.

A £250,000 Community Engagement Programme will support access to the venue for local community groups and schools. This will give over 68,000 people the opportunity to try out different activities at the new venue over the next few years.

**A further £1 million from the London Borough of Waltham Forest will complement this programme to create a package of benefits for residents with initiatives for underrepresented groups, crime prevention, mental health and wellbeing and biodiversity awareness, along with an employment and apprenticeship scheme and free event tickets for schools and community groups.**

The development will create 45 new jobs and offer a range of new opportunities in the sports and leisure sector, as well as boosting the local economy by £1.5 million a year.



## The Wave London

We are working with inland surfing specialists, The Wave, to develop a planning application for an extraordinary leisure destination at Lee Valley Leisure Complex in Edmonton, north London.

The £45 million project would enhance around 100 acres of land, including improving the ecology of the existing lake, and could make London the first capital city in the world to offer an inland surfing destination.

The Wave already operates a stunning venue in Bristol and this game-changing, cutting-edge development would bring surfing and the many benefits of 'blue health' and access to water to a new audience, creating jobs and bringing visitors to the area. The popularity of surfing is rapidly growing, and the sport featured for the first time at the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Staff at The Wave are preparing a planning application which would be considered by the London Borough of Enfield and the Greater London Authority. If approval was granted, the concept would allow people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to have a go at surfing, whether it's a child stepping on a board for the first time, a pro-surfer training for the Olympics, or an adaptive surfer taking advantage of the more controlled environment of the lake. The technology generates up to 1,000 quality waves an hour, with heights starting at 50cm and peaking at almost 2m.

The Wave Bristol has been using 100% renewable energy via an energy provider since it opened. It will soon be Net Zero Carbon in terms of operational energy, thanks to a major new solar array, battery storage and solar car ports scheme which has been approved. The team's ambition is to integrate its own renewable energy generation on all sites in future.

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## Investing in our communities

Our rebooted Community Access Fund will enable us to provide financial support to 4,000 members of disadvantaged groups this year from across London's 33 boroughs, as well as Hertfordshire and Essex. This will include paying for transport or covering the cost of access and activities, and will ensure opportunities for all communities to benefit from our inspirational sports venues and stunning open spaces.

We are refocusing the fund to use the anniversary of London 2012 to inspire and engage new community groups with an emphasis on creating long term relationships and repeat participation.



## New visitor accommodation

Visitor accommodation is a key component of the Lee Valley Regional Park offer. Today the park offers four campsites, including Lee Valley Almost Wild Campsite, Broxbourne, plus YHA London Lee Valley – a youth hostel next to Cheshunt station and our 1,000 acre River Lee Country Park – developed in partnership with the Youth Hostels Association.

Visitor accommodation lets the park reach out to regional, national and international audiences and is an important business area for the Authority which generates significant income.

There is great potential for additional visitor accommodation in Lee Valley Regional Park. In particular in association with our major sports venues, where such provision will help to underpin the viability of these venues over the coming decade.

We are examining the possibility of hotels or youth hostel style accommodation:

- Near to the WaterWorks Centre on Lea Bridge Road, Leyton, close to Lee Valley Ice Centre
- Within the site of Lee Valley White Water Centre
- At Eton Manor, where we have been looking at a proposed hotel development at the 2.35 acre site in the north of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

## Work with us

We are always keen to share the opportunities which the park provides. 10 years on from the Games our three legacy venues are thriving and our Community Access Fund is providing routes into them for all communities.

More than 11 million people have visited these venues in the last decade and the continued investment provides the certainty that they will be busy and valued well into the future. Our mission of inclusion and access is underpinned by a need to respond to the ever-changing needs of our communities and we are best able to do this through our work with partners and organisations who share these values.

We are always keen to speak to potential new partners who can be part of this ongoing legacy with us and who would like to work together.

Please get in touch with **Stephen Bromberg, Head of Communications** at [sbromberg@leevalleypark.org.uk](mailto:sbromberg@leevalleypark.org.uk) or 01992 709 881 to discuss how we can work together on future initiatives.



Introduction

From dumping ground to Zone of Sporting Excellence

Creating a long term sustainable legacy

Our London 2012 legacy venues

Lee Valley White Water Centre

Lee Valley VeloPark

Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre

Planning for the future

New places and spaces

Investing in our communities

New visitor accommodation

Work with us

# Lee Valley Regional Park

- 1 Lee Valley Marina, Stanstead Abbots  
Rye Meads Nature Reserve - SG12 8JS  
Rye House Gatehouse - EN11 0EH
- 2 Lee Valley Caravan Park, Dobbs Weir - EN11 0AS
- 3 Lee Valley Boat Centre - EN10 6LX  
Broxbourne Riverside Moorings - EN10 6LX  
Old Mill and Meadows - EN10 6QT  
Lee Valley Almost Wild Campsite, Broxbourne - EN10 6TD  
Spitalbrook - EN10 6TD
- 4 River Lee Country Park (Fishers Green) - EN9 2EF  
Lee Valley Animal Adventure Park - EN9 2EF  
Holyfield Hall Farm - EN9 2EG
- 5 River Lee Country Park (Pindar) - EN8 9AJ  
YHA London Lee Valley - EN8 9AJ  
Herts Young Mariners Base - EN8 9AJ
- 6 Lee Valley White Water Centre - EN9 1AB  
River Lee Country Park (Showground) - EN9 1AB  
River Lee Country Park (Cornmill Meadows) - EN9 2ES  
Waltham Abbey Gardens - EN9 1XQ
- 7 Gunpowder Park - EN9 3GP
- 8 Myddelton House Gardens and Lee Valley  
Regional Park Authority head office - EN2 9HG
- 9 Lee Valley Campsite, Sewardstone - E4 7RA
- 10 Lee Valley Leisure Complex  
Lee Valley Athletics Centre - N9 0AR  
Lee Valley Camping and Caravan Park, Edmonton - N9 0AR  
Lee Valley Golf Course - N9 0AR
- 11 Tottenham Marshes - N17 0XD
- 12 WaterWorks Centre - E10 7QB  
Lee Valley Riding Centre - E10 7QL  
Lee Valley Ice Centre - E10 7QL  
Walthamstow Marshes and Leyton Marsh - E10 7QL  
Lee Valley Marina, Springfield
- 13 Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park  
Lee Valley VeloPark - E20 3AB  
Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre - E20 3AD
- 14 Three Mills Island - E3 3DU
- 15 Bow Creek Ecology Park - E16 4ST  
East India Dock Basin - E14 9QS



## Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

Myddelton House  
Bull Cross  
Enfield  
Middlesex  
EN2 9HG

[visitleevalley.org.uk](http://visitleevalley.org.uk)

