

# Wandle Valley Forum's role

# Wandle Valley Forum Charter

## Our Role

The Wandle Valley inspires people and organisations to care for and enjoy it. This includes different voluntary organisations that champion the Regional Park, promote its history and look after the health of the river and its catchment. Wandle Valley Forum makes a unique contribution to this network of Wandle organisations. Our role is to:

- Support community groups and others inspired by the Wandle.
- Provide the glue which brings people and organisations together.
- Manage a communications network on Wandle issues.
- Use our independent voice to amplify that of local groups and speak out for the Wandle Valley's future.

## Our Pledge

The Wandle Valley Forum Charter sets out shared priorities for the future. It cannot be delivered by the Wandle Valley Forum alone. The Charter needs local authorities, businesses, voluntary organisations, statutory agencies, community groups and others to work together and pool their time and resources. We pledge to work with anyone who can help meet the Charter's priorities and will play our role to:

- Celebrate the Wandle Valley each year and attract more people to appreciate its value.
- Champion the potential of the Wandle Metropolitan Park between Hackbridge and Mitcham.
- Support local groups' work to influence planning and development decisions.
- Secure an effective and well-resourced Wandle Valley Regional Park.
- Strengthen the role of local communities in the Wandle's future.
- Campaign to complete the Wandle Trail.

The Wandle Valley Forum Charter is grounded in the views of community groups, voluntary organisations and local businesses that support the Wandle Valley Forum and reflects the outcomes from our Wandle Futures workshop in 2015. It draws on the extensive work already undertaken by Wandle Trust, Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust, All London Green Grid, Living Wandle Landscape Partnership, Wandle Industrial Museum and others who have done so much to establish a shared approach to the Wandle Valley. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.

Wandle Valley Forum provides support and an independent voice for over 80 community groups & voluntary organisations and for everyone who shares a passion for the Wandle. Our campaigning was instrumental in establishing the Wandle Valley Regional Park and we are integral to its future development. Support us by offering your time or giving a donation.

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## The Wandle community's priorities for the future of the Wandle Valley





# Wandle priorities

People and organisations inspired by the Wandle Valley have come together to produce this Charter and agree its priorities for everyone who has a role in its future.

- 1. Put communities in the lead** – Create more opportunities for local people to manage and run buildings and open spaces along the Wandle and support a local food economy.
- 2. More consistent planning** – Secure common planning policies to leave space along the river bank, support public access, encourage a naturally functioning river, and respect the Wandle’s local character; and pool resources from the community infrastructure levy into a Wandle fund.
- 3. Complete the Wandle Trail** – Provide public access for all along the river without urbanising the landscape or putting wildlife at risk and close gaps in the Wandle Trail at Earlsfield and the Wandle Delta.
- 4. Celebrate and inspire** – Link millions more people to the Wandle through community events and arts, cultural and sporting activities and support an annual Wandle celebration.
- 5. Respect nature and history** – Support the ambitions of local community groups and voluntary organisations for a naturally functioning, self sustaining river and for the Wandle’s heritage to be better cared for and promoted.



- 6. Create a new Wandle Metropolitan Park** – Realise London’s largest environmental opportunity by managing the 450 hectares of open space stretching from Beddington Park to Mitcham Common – an area three times that of Hyde Park – as a coherent whole for people and wildlife.
- 7. Secure business benefits** – Take the opportunities stemming from having nearly 20% of London’s manufacturing and five Business Improvement Districts to provide investment in environmental quality and cultural vitality that attracts more visitors, expands the range of customers and makes Wandle Valley businesses more attractive places to work.
- 8. Support a resilient Wandle** – Tackle climate change and air pollution through developing the Wandle Valley as a pioneering green energy hub and increasing tree cover and green space.
- 9. Strengthen the Wandle Valley Regional Park** – Achieve the goals of the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust, endow it with land and buildings to support an enterprising role, and strengthen its independence while retaining strong relationships with local government.
- 10. See the bigger picture** – Connect the Wandle Valley into the family of London’s Regional Parks with fairer funding arrangements and as part of London’s ambitions to be a National Park City.

