

# Beckenham Place Park celebrates major restoration

19/07/2019



Beckenham Place Park in Lewisham is celebrating the completion of a major National Lottery-funded restoration.

Visitors will be able to enjoy wild swimming in a reinstated 18th-century lake, beautiful views of the mansion house and plenty of family activities when the park officially reopens on Saturday 20 July.

Led by Lewisham Council and supported by a £4.9million National Lottery grant, the park's Georgian origins have been reimagined for a new generation of visitors.

## Getting active

Beckenham Place Park now has London's first purpose-built wild swimming lake. Inspired by the original 18th-century design of the park, the lake is once again a focal point. Complete with a beach area it is now open for swimming, boating and other water-based activities.

Natural play areas, cycle tracks and walking routes have been created to enable people of all ages to enjoy as much of the park as possible.

## Wildlife haven

The park is a key site for wildlife, boasting a range of diverse habitats. From ancient woodland to hay meadow, natural river to pond, it is a great place to get close to nature.



Credit: Lewisham Council

The new lake will provide a valuable open water habitat for bats, birds and other wildlife that call the park home. Meanwhile, a new wet woodland area provides an excellent habitat for amphibians and invertebrates. It will also host environmental education activities in the park.

## Enjoying heritage

The Grade II listed stable block and yard now houses an education centre and a café with a terrace overlooking the gardens. Other historic features have been returned to their former glory including the pleasure gardens, courtyard and the carriage drive to the mansion.

A Victorian cottage has been restored as a base for volunteering activities. Around it, a community garden has been grown where local volunteers will tend the produce and community partners can provide horticultural therapy. It will also host activities for schools, forest schools and pre-school groups.