

Policy G1 Green infrastructure

- A London's network of green and open spaces, and green features in the built environment, should be protected and enhanced. Green infrastructure should be planned, designed and managed in an integrated way to achieve multiple benefits.
- B Boroughs should prepare green infrastructure strategies that identify opportunities for cross-borough collaboration, ensure green infrastructure is optimised and consider green infrastructure in an integrated way as part of a network consistent with Part A.
- C Development Plans and area-based strategies should use evidence, including green infrastructure strategies, to:
 - 1) identify key green infrastructure assets, their function and their potential function
 - 2) identify opportunities for addressing environmental and social challenges through strategic green infrastructure interventions.
- D Development proposals should incorporate appropriate elements of green infrastructure that are integrated into London's wider green infrastructure network.

- 8.1.1 A **green infrastructure approach** recognises that the network of green and blue spaces,¹³³ street trees, green roofs and other major assets such as natural or semi-natural drainage features must be planned, designed and managed in an integrated way. Policy G1 sets out the strategic green infrastructure approach and provides a framework for how this can be assessed and planned for. The remaining policies in this chapter provide more detail on specific aspects of green infrastructure, which work alongside other policies in the Plan to achieve multiple objectives. Objectives include: promoting mental and physical health and wellbeing; adapting to the impacts of climate change and the urban heat-island effect; improving air and water quality; encouraging walking and cycling; supporting landscape and heritage conservation; learning about the environment; supporting food growing and conserving and enhancing

133

London's waterways and their multifunctional role are specifically addressed in [Policy SI 14 Waterways – strategic role](#) to [Policy SI 17 Protecting and enhancing London's waterways](#).



biodiversity and ecological resilience alongside more traditional functions of green space such as play, sport and recreation.

- 8.1.2 All development takes place within a wider environment and green infrastructure should be an integral element and not an 'add-on'. Its **economic and social value** should be recognised as highlighted in the London i-Tree Assessment¹³⁴ and the Natural Capital Account for London's Public Parks.¹³⁵
- 8.1.3 To help deliver on his manifesto commitment to make more than half of London green by 2050, the Mayor will review and update existing Supplementary Planning Guidance on the All London Green Grid – London's strategic green infrastructure framework – to provide **guidance** on the strategic green infrastructure network and the preparation of green infrastructure strategies.

Policy G2 London's Green Belt

- A The Green Belt should be protected from inappropriate development:
 - 1) development proposals that would harm the Green Belt should be refused except where very special circumstances exist,
 - 2) subject to national planning policy tests, the enhancement of the Green Belt to provide appropriate multi-functional beneficial uses for Londoners should be supported.
- B Exceptional circumstances are required to justify either the extension or de-designation of the Green Belt through the preparation or review of a Local Plan.

¹³⁴ Valuing London's Urban Forest - Results of the London i-Tree Eco Project, Treeconomics, 2015, <https://www.london.gov.uk/WHAT-WE-DO/environment/environment-publications/valuing-londons-urban-forest>

¹³⁵ Natural capital accounts for public green space in London, Vivid Economics, 2017, <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/green-infrastructure/natural-capital-account-london?source=vanityurl>

