

Expression of Interest to LWLPS – Please complete and return to LivingWandle@wandsworth.gov.uk by 13th April 2016.

Expression of Interest Form to the Living Wandle Landscape Partnership Scheme (LW LPS)

Please let us know your project ideas. We are looking to fund projects that will deliver benefits within the LW scheme area before December 2017. It is likely that the total pot available will be £60,000. From this, a variety of smaller projects will be funded.

Your project idea should feed into at least one of the five main aims of the LW scheme:

Living Wandle Landscape Partnership Scheme Aims	
	To revitalise the River Wandle as an identifiable high quality asset to the communities of South London through engagement with the Natural and Built Heritage of the river
	To provide a multi-functional living landscape which is accessible to all and an open space resource that contributes to health and well-being
	To strengthen the partnership of people who look after the river
	To reintroduce the local diverse community to the river and to find ways in which this re-established relationship can enrich the lives of local people
	To help make the river valley a clear, safer and much more sustainable environment

The following criteria will be considered during the selection process:

	Desirable Project Criteria
Organisation (20%)	Organisation delivering the project has proven track record/ experience
	Organisation delivering the project has relevant project skills
	Organisation delivering the project has local knowledge
Project (80%)	Project delivers strong outcomes and enduring benefits (Living Wandle Legacy Outcomes TBC)
	Project delivers benefits to communities who are not already engaged with the LW programme
	Project requires partnership working to be successful
	Project is unlikely to be delivered by other means/funding sources/partners
	Project is good value
	Project will bring in match funding

Timeframes:

Timeframe	Action
Deadline: 13 th April 2016	Contact with the Living Wandle team and submission of Expression of Interest forms
2 nd March 2016	Total funding pot available is decided
11 th May 2016	Projects considered by Living Wandle steering group and shortlist produced
June 2016	Legacy outcomes of the LW LPS are decided
July 2016	The project shortlist produced by the Steering Group is considered by the LW board with reference to the agreed LW legacy outcomes. Projects to receive funding are selected.

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Your Project

Please try to keep the project description brief (ideally up to 2 pages). At this stage we require outline project information only. We will contact you if we need more information.

Please contact Rebecca Watts (LW LPS manager) if you would like to discuss and develop your project idea: rwatts@wandsworth.gov.uk, 07500 073073.

Contact Person and Details:	Alister Hayes, Regional Development Manager – South London ahayes@wildlondon.org.uk
Name of Project:	Volunteering for Wildlife in Sutton
Aim of Project:	Encourage engagement and sustainable volunteering at Spencer Road Wetlands and Wilderness Island; two Wandle sites in Sutton
Delivery Organisation(s):	London Wildlife Trust
Timeframe of Project:	August – November 2016

Please provide a brief description of the project (including why you want to do this project, who you think the main beneficiaries will be, location where the project will be based, any partners you are looking to involve etc.)

This project would meet the Living Wandle Outcomes below:

To revitalise the River Wandle as an identifiable high quality asset to the communities of South London through engagement with the Natural and Built Heritage of the river

To provide a multi-functional living landscape which is accessible to all and an open space resource that contributes to health and well-being

Project summary

We are applying for funding for a tool shed to facilitate volunteering sessions at our Spencer Road Wetlands reserve, and a board walk, hoggin path, and interpretation board to improve access at Wilderness Island.

Proven track record and relevant project skills

London Wildlife Trust (LWT) manages over 45 nature reserves across the capital, 15 of which are in west London. Over the last 34 years we have worked to protect priority habitats and species and engage London's diverse communities to ensure that the capital's wildlife is protected for the future.

LWT is very experienced in managing volunteers to improve access. LWT has built and installed boardwalks at Gunnersbury Triangle, Yeading Brook Meadows and Denham Lock Wood with volunteers and trainees. We have installed new interpretation boards in the past with illustrations of relevant local wildlife, informing and enthusing people about the heritage of their local wild space.

Local knowledge

LWT have managed the sites since the late 1980s and have habitat management plans in place for both. We support two long-term volunteer wardens and have established volunteer groups at both Spencer Road Wetlands and Wilderness Island. It is at the request of these groups that we are applying for funding. The volunteer wardens for the two sites, Derek Coleman and Norman Jones, have been volunteering at these sites

since the 1980s and have huge local knowledge of the Wandle. With the support of LWT staff, they lead monthly workdays to conserve these reserves for the whole community.

Project delivers strong outcomes and enduring benefits

We are seeking to improve public engagement and enhance the volunteering experience at two of our nature reserves that are located on the Wandle. LWT has managed the meadows, ponds, wetlands and woods at Wilderness Island for 29 years – the reserve is open at all times and is popular with visitors; the resulting gradual wear and tear has now left the boardwalk in bad repair. In order for the site to remain safe and accessible, and so that the local community can explore and engage with this part of the Wandle, we need to replace the boardwalk. This will also prevent neighbouring habitats from being damaged by trampling. There has been some recent vandalism on site, so we are keen to support more positive use of the reserve by maintaining pathways. Sections of the paths are covered in hoggins, an environmentally friendly, hard-wearing and attractive path material, which in parts also badly needs replacing.

Once we have purchased the materials, local volunteers, managed and supported by LWT staff, will build and install the boardwalk and lay the paths. The priority task at Wilderness Island is to restore the boardwalk for access.

We are also applying for funding to cover the design and installation of an interpretation board introducing visitors to the local history and ecology of Wilderness Island. Staff in conversation with local visitors find many are unaware of the wildlife and recreational opportunities at Wilderness Island, for example many were surprised that kingfishers are present. The interpretation board will help local people to understand their area and reconnect to the Wandle.

Downstream of Wilderness Island, Spencer Rd Wetlands Nature Reserve urgently needs a tool shed to store equipment for volunteer workdays. The reserve, a former watercress farm, supports semi-natural wet woodland habitats which are considered to be typical of those that might naturally occur alongside the Wandle and is a priority habitat nationally. Kingfishers and rare wetland moths such as Brown-veined Wainscot and Webb's Wainscot are all frequently spotted at the site.

Regular volunteer days have taken place at Spencer Road Wetlands for several years, however since the reserve does not have any tool storage, an unnecessary amount of potential volunteer time is spent transporting tools. Our nearest tool store is at the Sutton Council Ecology Centre in Carshalton, where we have permission to share tools, and some tools including a lawnmower have had to be housed by the local wardens on their own properties. A new shed will promote the smooth running of workdays on site with easier access to tools and equipment, and sessions will be longer, more enjoyable, and more focused on habitat restoration. This would make volunteer sessions more attractive to local people, and would maintain our good practices in health and safety when running public events.

Local people will benefit hugely from improved and up-to-date facilities, access and interpretation which will make volunteering more sustainable in the long-term and will enable us to engage more and a wider variety of people in caring for and managing their part of the Wandle. Volunteers will have the opportunity to take part in practical work delivering tangible benefits for their local nature reserves and for the wider community accessing the sites, leading to an increased sense of community ownership and responsibility over their local green space. At Wilderness Island, volunteers will be able to learn about the Wandle and its heritage through the new interpretation panel.

Project delivers benefits to communities who are not already engaged with the LW programme

Spencer Road Wetlands and Wilderness Island have had only adhoc LW programme events to date through the Wandle Estates project. The current proposed projects would allow LW to reach new communities. For example, some volunteer groups which may wish to visit in the future have their own strict risk assessments,

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which would include storage of tools. The restored board walk and hoggin paths would also allow us to attract new people to visit Wilderness Island, and retain existing visitors who may also be encouraged to volunteer at the site. The new tool shed at Spencer Road Wetlands will make volunteering sessions at the reserve more productive and enjoyable and help support LWT staff and volunteers to maintain health and safety protocols. Word of mouth will help us to spread the word about the sessions and will encourage more local people to volunteer with LWT and attend regular workdays run by the volunteer wardens in the long-term and learn more about the history of the Wandle and the reserve.

Project requires partnership working to be successful

Our long-standing local volunteer wardens, Norman Jones at Spencer Rd Wetlands and Derek Coleman at Wilderness Island, have enabled LWT to manage the two reserves, and recruit local volunteers to engage with these nature reserves adjacent to the River Wandle. Their contribution is invaluable and volunteers are intrinsic to LWT’s conservation work – this project will be delivered through working in close partnership with these volunteer wardens and the volunteer groups they oversee.

Project is unlikely to be delivered by other means

Access improvements, interpretation and tool storage can be difficult to secure funding for from other sources, and we have been considering potential sources of funding for this project for two years. Without funding from the LWLPS it is unlikely that the project will be delivered, and this risks the opportunities for the local community to engage with the River Wandle.

Project is good value

We are requesting funding for the materials but not the labour costs involved in construction. LWT staff, trainees and, crucially, local volunteers will construct the paths and boardwalk from these materials, and we will cover the staff support costs of this project (see match funding below). The materials chosen are robust, long-lasting and good value. This project will have an immediate positive impact on both these Wandle reserves and opportunities for the community to appreciate the Wandle.

Project will bring in match funding

Volunteer value will provide a non-cash contribution to the project (please see below) and the project will be managed by our Water for Wildlife Officer, for whom we have already secured funding and are not seeking funding for from this expression of interest.

Main Outputs

- The project will be delivered by supporting 4 trainees and at least 22 volunteers; the opportunity to get involved will be advertised via our two volunteer groups, existing mailing list and posters on the reserve’s noticeboard, as well as through local partners and the community
- 24 metres of restored boardwalk and hoggin paths will maintain good and safe access to Wilderness Island, regularly used as part of the Wandle Trail
- Improvement to interpretation at Wilderness Island through installation of a new interpretation panel about the site and river
- New tool shed at Spencer Road Wetlands to store equipment for volunteer workdays

Expected Outcomes

- Local people will be more aware and interested in the natural and social heritage of the Wandle Valley
- Both reserves will attract more visitors

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- More volunteers will join our local volunteer group and become involved in conserving the river at Spencer Road Wetlands and Wilderness Island – we anticipate attracting at least 5 new volunteers to the sites through better access and facilities
- More people will learn about Wilderness Island and the River Wandle’s role in the site through new interpretation
- New tool shed will mean more secure and spacious storage for volunteer tools, and easier access to tools for volunteers meaning improved and more productive volunteer workdays
- Volunteers at Wilderness Island will gain skills and experience in practical path laying and boardwalks.

A. Main Costs Boardwalk – Wilderness Island	Amount (VAT not included)	Notes
Materials for 25m boardwalk and restored hoggan paths at Wilderness Island	1,750	Includes grip planks, stringers, oak pieces, screws, coach bolts, 2xton hoggan
Volunteer expenses	100	Covers travel and lunch expenses
Tool shed for equipment storage at Spencer Rd Wetlands	1,895	
Design, production and installation of 2x interpretation panels at Wilderness Island	6,000	
Costs of delivery for boardwalk materials and tool shed	585	
VAT	2,066	
Project Officer time to support volunteers and oversee capital works	1,984	Project Officer salary £26,269 @ 1 day per week for four months, including on costs (NI and pension)
Full Cost Recovery - overheads	437	Based on LWT’s Full Cost Recovery calculation
Contingency		
Total Cash Value:	14,817	
Income/Budget	Amount	Notes
Match Funding anticipated (cash)	2,421	Grant from Esmee Fairbairn Foundation towards Project Officer time and overheads - secured
Living Wandle contribution (HLF cash)	12,396	84%
Total Income:	14,817	

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Any Volunteer Value to be achieved?	Amount	Notes
Volunteer Value (please see p9 of the HLF guidance)	£6,600	66 volunteer days: 33 x unskilled @ £50 per day 33 x skilled (experienced in laying boardwalk and pathworks) @ £150 per day

Thank you for your interest in the HLF Living Wandle Landscape Partnership Scheme.

More information about the programme can be found at:

www.wandlevalleypark.co.uk/the-living-wandle-partnership

Please send your completed Expression of Interest Form to:

LivingWandle@wandsworth.gov.uk.