

BULLY FEN WOOD The Community Woodland

The community Woodland Campaign was launched in June 2000 as part of a London Borough of Newham initiative to plant more trees in the Borough. Local residents and businesses were asked to join an adopt-a-tree scheme with each donation ensuring that a tree would be planted on this site in Stratford. Newham Council staff, Councillors, members of the public, local schools, MPs and former Mayors have all volunteered their time to help plant trees for this project. With the work led by Lea Rivers Trust, nearly 4,000 native trees and bushes such as Oak, Ash and Holly have been planted on what was once a barren stretch of land to provide a place for the whole community to enjoy.

The History of Bully Fen Wood

This site, which includes the Lee Valley Cycle Circuit, Bully Point Nature Reserve and Bully Fen has had a chequered history. Prior to 1850 it would have been a grazed water meadow, a flat, grassy area. It would have contained a rich and diverse flora and fauna and been regularly flooded by Channelsea River, which follows the old course of the River Lea.

Since then, the site has at different times during its history, been used as a rubbish tip, a pig farm and a greyhound track. In 1972 the site was acquired by Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA) who landscaped the area giving the site its present landform. The undulations are a result of all the rubbish discarded in the Victorian era.

Wildlife

Bully Fen and Bully Point Nature Reserve are now both recognised for their local ecological importance for London. The open grassland areas of Bully Fen are home to the Small Heath Butterfly, and Kingfishers are frequently seen flying along Channelsea River. The new Bully Fen Community Woodland, as it matures, will provide an increasingly important habitat for a wide range of birds and insects, which both live [in] and pass through this area and continue to add to the biodiversity of the site in the future.

Sponsors

This enterprise between Newham Council, Stratford Development Partnership, environmental charity the Lea Rivers Trust and landowners the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, hopes to raise awareness of the local environment and involve more people in nature conservation and other environmental activities. This programme has been supported by a £7.8 Million grant for the Stratford: Tomorrow's City Single Regeneration Budget from the London Development Agency.

THE NEW WOODLAND AT BULLY FEN HAS BEEN CREATED BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND IS THEIR LEGACY TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.



Photo, 9th June 2006, Bully Fen Community Woodland sign



Photo, 9th June 2006, Bully Fen Nature Reserve