



Walthamstow Wetlands.

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After a ten year, £10.6 million project to transform Walthamstow reservoirs into Europe's largest urban wetland nature reserve, the doors finally opened to the public at the end of October 2017.

First of its kind.

Walthamstow Wetlands are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), managed by a first of its kind public, private and charity partnership between Thames Water, Waltham Forest Council and London Wildlife Trust (LWT).

Although this is a Thames Water operational site, LWT are responsible for conserving and enhancing the site's wildlife and heritage. This is an internationally important nature reserve, providing shelter to a wide range of wildlife, including rare and endangered birds

Ten reservoirs make up the 211-hectare wetlands which also comprises the largest recreational fishery in London. The site is owned by Thames Water and supplies 3.5 million Londoners with drinking water every day. This project gives visitors free access to the site's natural, industrial and social heritage.

Opening ceremony.

Steve Robertson was joined by Cllr Claire Coghill (London Borough of Waltham Forest) and David Mooney (LWT). In addition, over 200 guests were invited to celebrate the official opening of the site to the public.

Success since opening.

More than 250,000 people flocked to Walthamstow Wetlands in the first six months since it opened to the public. Despite a very cold, wet and snowy winter, visitors far exceeded initial estimates, but thousands more are expected over the summer to enjoy walks, birdwatching and getting closer to nature.

LWT have continued to deliver education sessions on site, and, with the help of volunteers, have constructed a purpose-built outdoor classroom. Volunteering on site is growing in strength and includes carrying out transitional conservation tasks as well as welcoming visitors and showing them the wildlife around the reservoirs.



Visitors at Walthamstow Wetlands.



Visiting the site.

Visitors are reminded to take safety precautions when visiting the site, including sticking to the designated walking, jogging and cycling paths, not entering the water or feeding the wild birds, and remaining respectful of other visitors and wildlife at all times.

Due to the sensitive and legally protected nature of Walthamstow Wetlands, we're sorry to say we can't allow dogs - even the friendliest and best-behaved dogs frighten the birds and wild animals.

- A 211 hectare, ten reservoir complex owned by Thames Water, transformed into one of the largest urban wetland nature reserves in Europe.
- An internationally important nature reserve, conserving and enhancing the site's wildlife and heritage.

www.walthamstowwetlands.com

