

Friends of Stave Hill

Stave Hill Ecology Park, Timber Pond Road, London SE16 6AX. Tel: 0207 237 9175

Stave Hill Ecology Park / Russia Dock Woodland – request for Local Nature Reserve status

We are writing in support of the request for Stave Hill Ecology Park & Russia Dock Woodland to be declared a Local Nature Reserve.

We feel that the ecology park and adjacent woodland merit this designation as they support a very diverse range of flora and fauna, and have established habitats managed for nature conservation by both The Conservation Volunteers and the London Borough of Southwark.

Both the ecology park and woodland have management plans that deliver the objectives of managing habitats for nature conservation.

The ecology park was created between 1986-88, and is largely a grassland site. The biodiversity of flora and fauna has increased each year, and many flora species have established colonies. These include Primrose, Snakeshead Fritillary, Cowslip, Meadow Cranesbill and Field Scabious.

In 1994, the site was listed as an urban butterfly sanctuary by the Butterfly Conservation Council. Twenty four species of butterfly have been recorded, including migrants such as Clouded Yellow and Painted Lady. A survey by the Surrey Micromoth group recorded over a hundred species, some of which are locally or nationally scarce.

The site is an established habitat for social bees, of which 12 species have been recorded, including 6 species of bumblebee. There have been between 3-5 honey bee hives on site since 2008.

The ecology park and woodland support a wide and increasing range of birds, which include Goldcrests, Blackcaps, and Green Woodpeckers. Nightingales have been recorded on a number of occasions. Hedgehogs are known to be resident, and some areas are managed with the aim of providing an optimum habitat for them.

Stave Hill Ecology Park / Russia Dock Woodland has been awarded five consecutive Green Flag Awards, as well as two Mayor of London Safer Parks Awards (silver) and the Octavia Hill Green Guardians Award.

The Friends of Stave Hill was formed in 2003, and is a group of local residents dedicated to supporting our local green space. We work closely with The Conservation Volunteers, Southwark Council, and carry out partnership projects with the Friends of Russia Dock Woodland.

We hold monthly volunteering events where local residents carry out practical habitat management tasks, as well as a monthly session for local children when they take part in eco art projects and nature exploration.

Kevin Murphy, Friends of Stave Hill (Chair). 21.11.15



RUSSIA DOCK WOODLAND-REQUEST FOR LNR STATUS

We are writing in support for Russia Dock Woodland and Stave Hill Ecology Park being declared a Local Nature Reserves. We believe that the woodland and ecological park merit this designation because the sites support a rich diversity of urban flora and fauna, and are managed for nature conservation by the Council and The Conservation Volunteers.

We are pleased that both sites are managed for nature conservation and have management plans that deliver the conservation objectives.

The Woodlands bird diversity has gone from strength to strength over recent years with Kingfishers, Sparrow Hawks, Dunnock, Reed Warblers, Green and Greater Spotted Woodpeckers, Black Caps warblers, Goldfinch, and Jays being common sightings.

Several newly planted Wildflower Meadows are now flourishing and attracting an abundance of insects, which in turn are attracting new species into the woodlands every year.

The Woodlands Waterways and Wetlands Habitats are now well established with fresh underground aquifer water being pumped into the woodland linear waterways on a daily basis.

The Friends of Russia Dock Woodland (FDRW), formed over a decade ago. We are a dedicated group of local residents and volunteers that have helped to transform Russia Dock Woodland, a 36 acre linear woodland into a much loved and cherished wildlife haven in the center of Rotherhithe in the London Borough of Southwark.

We work in partnership with Southwark Council and very closely with the adjoining Stave Hill Ecological Park, which is run by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV).

The friends have won several awards in its ten years of existence; Mayor of London's Safer Parks Awards (2) and the coveted Octavia Hill Award (1). Southwark Council has been awarded 5 consecutive Green Flag Awards for RDW.

We work very closely with both local schools and also schools from further afield. Many of them have become (Forest Schools) which is now very popular.

We hold several events every year, where, as an example, children and their parents help build and erect Bird Boxes, make Hedgehog Boxes, and make Bat Boxes.

Steve Cornish- Friends of Russia Dock Woodlands (Chair) 27/10/15