

# Lee Valley Ice Centre: Twice the ice, more than twice as nice

East London's Lee Valley Ice Centre is one of the UK's most popular ice-skating venues, but after 34 years of use it's no longer fit for purpose. Proposals by LDA Design and FaulknerBrowns will create a new complex in a wonderful parkland setting. With two Olympic-sized ice rinks, the low-energy centre would be the first twin-pad venue in the south of England. New cafés and community spaces will encourage more visitors to stay longer.

The parkland will be made more distinctive and biodiverse with new native planting and wildflower meadows, with views out to the wider marshland. Ice rink melt will be recycled into the surrounding swales and wetlands - a UK first. Extensive habitat restoration and creation will make it a haven for under-threat native species such as hedgehogs and water voles. The parkland will also better connect to local nature reserves, Oxbow Lake and the network of footpaths, cycle lanes and bridleways. There will be less car parking spaces and increased provision for bikes, with green-roof cycle shelters.

As the new centre has greater capacity, it is hoped that it will be used more by local people, reducing the health costs of physical inactivity. Research shows that the revitalised centre and parkland would generate an estimated annual health benefit of at least £16.2 million.



**Client**  
Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

**Location**  
London

**Partners**  
FaulknerBrowns

**Services**  
Landscape Architecture, Ecology

**Schedule**  
2017 - ongoing

<sup>1</sup> A biodiverse landscape of swales and wetlands

<sup>2</sup> Illustrative masterplan

<sup>3</sup> The new centre in a restored parkland setting