

If we could design London we would... create **LONDON NATIONAL PARK**

WHY?

Because London's green and blue spaces are some of its greatest assets, but we could do with more of it...

- To encourage greater engagement with nature and the elements
- To encourage community cohesion, connectivity and sustainable city living.
- To encourage shared ownership and responsibility
- To help break down territorial animosity and post code rivalry
- To get people's hands dirty and encourage vegetable gardening
- To encourage cycling and walking and get people outside

WHAT PLACES?

Some of them are already there but could be connected with a more coherent identity.

Places such as...

Lidos - for exercise and to engender a spirit of trust and openness through swimming and lounging about.

Football grounds - Because everyone loves to play football.

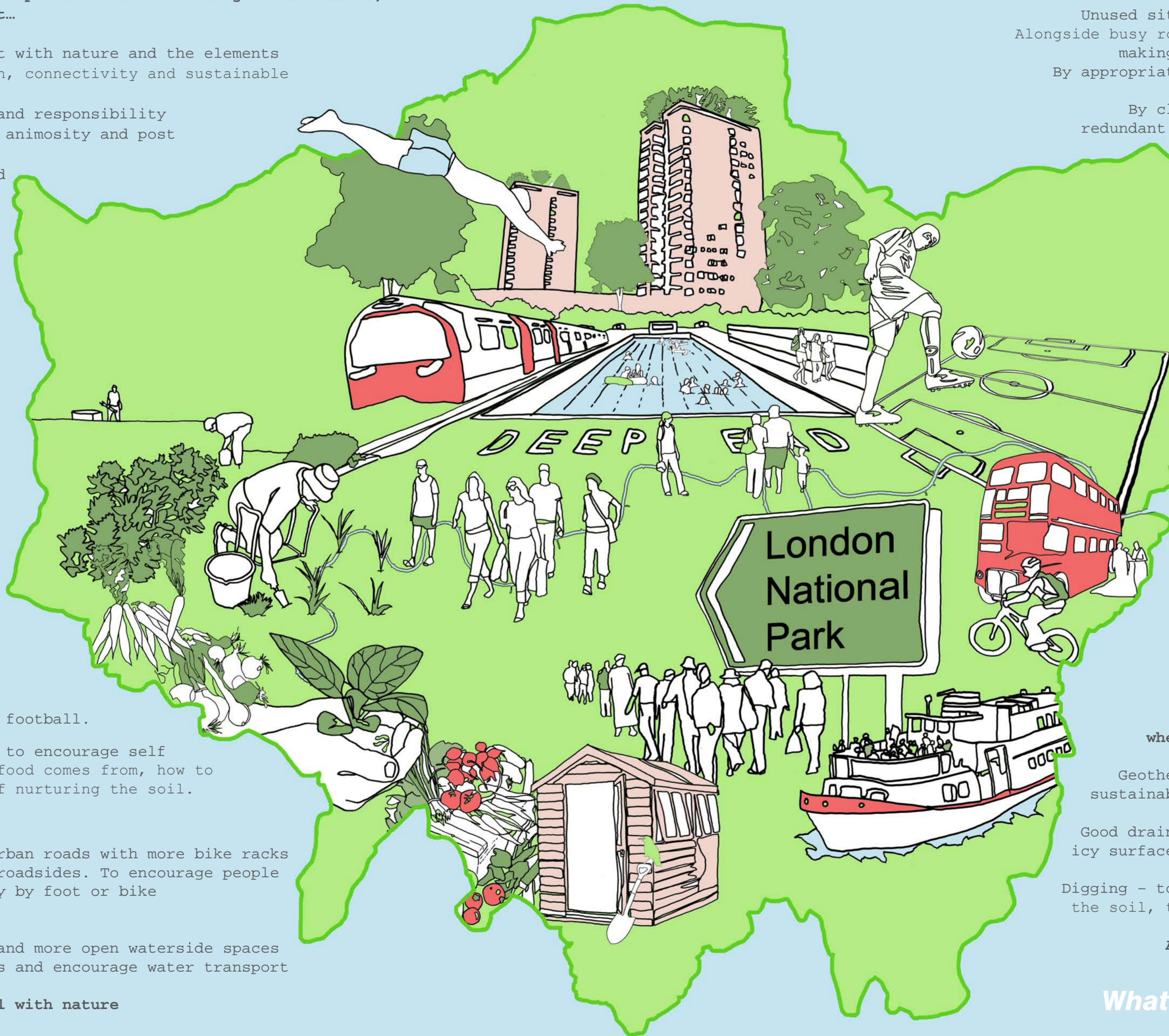
Veg patches - small allotments to encourage self sufficiency and learning where food comes from, how to produce it, and the pleasure of nurturing the soil.

And connect them up with...

Scenic routes alongside busy urban roads with more bike racks in and around stations and on roadsides. To encourage people to get around easily and safely by foot or bike - from railway station to work

Riverside places create safer and more open waterside spaces along Londons rivers and canals and encourage water transport

Places to engage the urban soul with nature



WHERE?

By clearing away unwanted buildings and concentrating places of density and openness

Unused sites and awkward left-over spaces. Alongside busy roads and railways, on bus routes, making lively places out of dead ones. By appropriating wide roads and car parks and diverting the traffic elsewhere.

By clearing away grey clutter such as redundant telephone boxes and switchboards

AND WHAT HAPPENS AT NIGHT?

Public places need illumination and occupation and could have..

Tidal powered lighting. Connecting all these spaces to the river. 24 hour occupied adjacencies for passive surveillance and feeling safe

AND WHEN IT'S COLD AND WET?

We need to keep places alive when it's cold and wet. How about..

Geothermally heated lidos - pioneering sustainable energy for urban public space initiatives around the world
Good drainage and water storage - to avoid icy surfaces and store the water for summer vegetables and irrigation
Digging - to make people feel connected with the soil, to prepare the ground for spring.

A London National Park could mean many things to many people.

What would it mean to you?