

biodiversity and ecological resilience alongside more traditional functions of green space such as play, sport and recreation.

- 8.1.2 All development takes place within a wider environment and green infrastructure should be an integral element and not an ‘add-on’. Its **economic and social value** should be recognised as highlighted in the London i-Tree Assessment¹³⁴ and the Natural Capital Account for London’s Public Parks.¹³⁵
- 8.1.3 To help deliver on his manifesto commitment to make more than half of London green by 2050, the Mayor will review and update existing Supplementary Planning Guidance on the All London Green Grid – London’s strategic green infrastructure framework – to provide **guidance** on the strategic green infrastructure network and the preparation of green infrastructure strategies.

Policy G2 London’s Green Belt

- A The Green Belt should be protected from inappropriate development:
- 1) development proposals that would harm the Green Belt should be refused except where very special circumstances exist,
 - 2) subject to national planning policy tests, the enhancement of the Green Belt to provide appropriate multi-functional beneficial uses for Londoners should be supported.
- B Exceptional circumstances are required to justify either the extension or de-designation of the Green Belt through the preparation or review of a Local Plan.

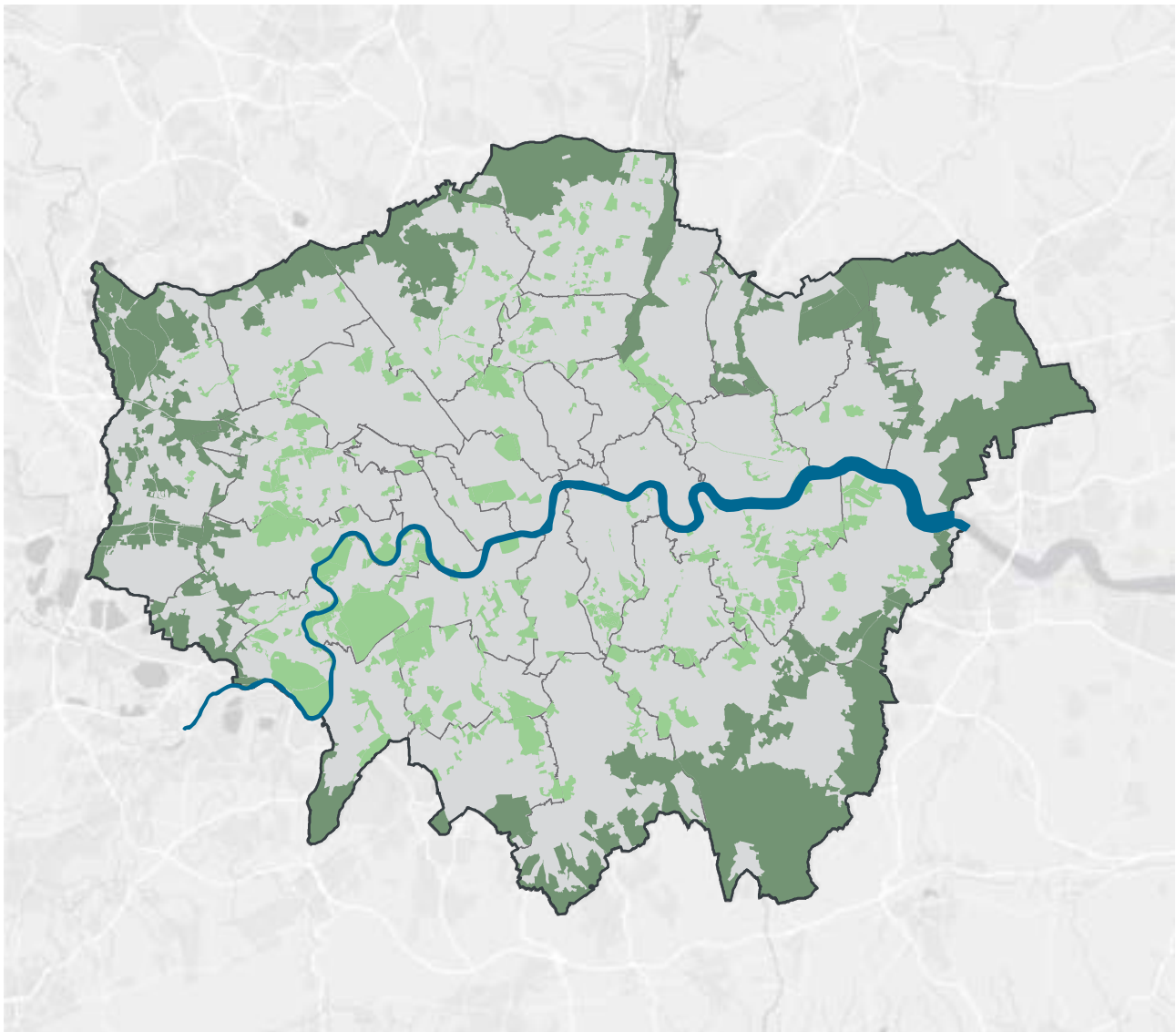
¹³⁴ Valuing London’s Urban Forest - Results of the London i-Tree Eco Project, Treeconomics, 2015, <https://www.london.gov.uk/WHAT-WE-DO/environment/environment-publications/valuing-londons-urban-forest>

¹³⁵ Natural capital accounts for public green space in London, Vivid Economics, 2017, <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/green-infrastructure/natural-capital-account-london?source=vanityurl>



- 8.2.1 The Mayor strongly supports the **continued protection of London's Green Belt**. The NPPF provides a clear direction for the management of development within the Green Belt and sets out the processes and considerations for defining Green Belt boundaries. London's Green Belt makes up 22 per cent of London's land area and performs multiple beneficial functions for London, such as combating the urban heat island effect, growing food, and providing space for recreation. It also provides the vital function of containing the further expansion of built development. This has helped to drive the re-use and intensification of London's previously developed brownfield land to ensure London makes efficient use of its land and infrastructure, and that inner urban areas benefit from regeneration and investment.
- 8.2.2 Openness and permanence are essential characteristics of the Green Belt, but, despite being open in character, some parts of the Green Belt do not provide significant benefits to Londoners as they have become derelict and unsightly. This is not, however, an acceptable reason to allow development to take place. These derelict sites may be making positive contributions to biodiversity, flood prevention, and climate resilience. The Mayor will work with boroughs and other strategic partners to enhance access to the Green Belt and to **improve the quality** of these areas in ways that are appropriate within the Green Belt.

Figure 8.1 - Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land



Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land

- Green Belt
- Metropolitan Open Land

Source: Borough Local Plans

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