# Floating water lido set to invigorate Canary Wharf's waterfront with sustainable leisure



Plans have been unveiled for a groundbreaking floating, natural water lido in Eden Dock, nestled in the heart of Canary Wharf. This ambitious project, designed by Sea Lanes—the team behind the popular Sea Lanes Brighton—proposes a six-lane, 50-metre swimming pool that will float directly in the dock’s clear, naturally filtered water. The water quality in Eden Dock is consistently rated 'Excellent' under EU Bathing Standards, making it an exceptional and safe venue for year-round open water swimming. The development aims to further open up this waterfront area for the public’s enjoyment, building on existing initiatives that have transformed Eden Dock into a vibrant and accessible urban oasis.

The lido will include more than just swimming lanes; plans also feature amenities such as saunas, a community clubhouse, and food and beverage offerings. These facilities are intended to foster a wellness-focused environment, providing a unique leisure destination that blends urban life with natural surroundings. Ross Gilbert, Director at Sea Lanes, expressed enthusiasm about the project, noting its potential to complement the previously successful opening of Eden Dock for public use and enhance the leisure options available in Canary Wharf.

Eden Dock itself is a recently revitalised space, formerly known as Middle Dock, and has been reimagined through a collaboration with the Eden Project. The area now boasts interconnected floating pontoons, aquatic islands, and lush native plantings designed to boost biodiversity and create a tranquil setting within the bustling financial district. Visitors to Eden Dock can already enjoy various water-based activities such as open water swimming, paddleboarding, and kayaking. The new lido is expected to elevate this experience further, providing dedicated and enhanced facilities for swimmers of all levels.

The transformation of Canary Wharf, spearheaded by CEO Shobi Khan, extends beyond this lido initiative. The iconic financial hub is actively diversifying its identity by introducing residential spaces, schools, affordable housing, retail outlets, and fitness studios. This strategic shift aims to establish a fully integrated, mixed-use district that appeals to both residents and visitors. Enhancing public amenities such as Eden Dock and the forthcoming lido aligns with broader efforts to refresh ageing infrastructure, support new industries including life sciences, and cultivate a vibrant community space amid the city’s rapid evolution.

A formal planning application for the floating lido is set to be submitted to Tower Hamlets Council in September, with hopes of opening the site by next summer. If approved, this innovative facility will offer a rare combination of urban convenience and natural aquatic recreation, celebrating Canary Wharf’s commitment to sustainability, wellbeing, and biodiversity. As the dock continues its transformation, the project promises to make waves not only for swimmers but for the entire community seeking green, accessible, and engaging public spaces.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/floating-natural-water-lido-canary-wharf-b1245116.html), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/floating-natural-water-lido-canary-wharf-b1245116.html), [[4]](https://canarywharf.com/eden-dock/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/floating-natural-water-lido-canary-wharf-b1245116.html), [[2]](https://group.canarywharf.com/press-release/canary-wharf-makes-a-splash-announcing-transformative-plans-for-new-50m-natural-water-lido-in-eden-dock-290825/), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/floating-natural-water-lido-canary-wharf-b1245116.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://canarywharf.com/eden-dock/), [[6]](https://www.howells.uk/projects/eden-dock), [[7]](https://canarywharf.com/whats-on/open-water-swimming/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.ft.com/content/8fd161f9-d901-4cac-a4b5-1759593f6833)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://group.canarywharf.com/press-release/canary-wharf-makes-a-splash-announcing-transformative-plans-for-new-50m-natural-water-lido-in-eden-dock-290825/), [[5]](https://www.ft.com/content/8fd161f9-d901-4cac-a4b5-1759593f6833)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/floating-natural-water-lido-canary-wharf-b1245116.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://group.canarywharf.com/press-release/canary-wharf-makes-a-splash-announcing-transformative-plans-for-new-50m-natural-water-lido-in-eden-dock-290825/> - Canary Wharf Group has announced plans for a floating, natural water lido in Eden Dock, featuring saunas, a community clubhouse, and year-round swimming. Designed by Sea Lanes, the six-lane, 50m lido will float in the dock, offering swimmers clear, natural water. The project aims to enhance the area's biodiversity and provide a unique wellness destination in the heart of Canary Wharf. A planning application is expected to be submitted to Tower Hamlets Council in September, with the site aiming to open next summer.
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/floating-natural-water-lido-canary-wharf-b1245116.html> - Plans have been submitted to Tower Hamlets Council for a new floating, natural water lido in Canary Wharf, designed by Sea Lanes, the team behind Sea Lanes Brighton. The six-lane, 50m lido will float in Eden Dock, offering year-round swimming in clear, natural water. The project includes saunas, a community clubhouse, and a food and beverage offering. The water in Eden Dock is naturally filtered and consistently rated 'Excellent' by EU Bathing Standards, making it a popular spot for open water swimmers across the UK.
4. <https://canarywharf.com/eden-dock/> - Eden Dock, formerly known as Middle Dock, has been transformed into a waterfront oasis in the heart of Canary Wharf. In partnership with the Eden Project, the dock now features interconnected pontoons, aquatic islands, and lush plantings, offering a tranquil space for visitors. The area is designed to enhance biodiversity and provide a connection between people and nature, with activities such as open water swimming, paddleboarding, and kayaking available. Eden Dock is open daily from sunrise to sunset.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/8fd161f9-d901-4cac-a4b5-1759593f6833> - Canary Wharf is undergoing a significant transformation to diversify its offerings beyond office spaces. Led by CEO Shobi Khan, the district is adding amenities such as schools, affordable housing, bakeries, and fitness studios to attract residents and visitors. This shift aims to create a mixed-use environment, refurbish aging towers, and introduce new industries, including life sciences, to enhance the area's appeal and ensure its future growth.
6. <https://www.howells.uk/projects/eden-dock> - Eden Dock has been reimagined through a series of floating, interconnected pontoons and aquatic islands, creating a new public space at the heart of Canary Wharf. The design includes floating boardwalks, gardens, educational spaces, and social terraces, providing access to the water for activities such as open-water swimming and kayaking. The project aims to enhance biodiversity and offer a unique urban experience, with planting featuring native vegetation to support various wildlife species.
7. <https://canarywharf.com/whats-on/open-water-swimming/> - Canary Wharf offers open water swimming sessions in Eden Dock, a transformed waterfront oasis featuring clear waters and lush plantings. In partnership with Love Open Water, the sessions are open to all over the age of 10, with lifeguards present and safety measures in place. Swimmers can enjoy views of iconic landmarks while immersing themselves in the natural environment. The sessions are available throughout the summer season, with booking required via the ACTiO app.