

KENT COUNTRY PARKS

Providing an inspirational countryside experience for all

Protect | Explore | Enjoy

OUR PARKS

Kent Country Parks is fortunate to manage a range of country parks and countryside sites which offer some of the best natural habitats and landscapes that Kent has to offer. We are proud of our country parks, and we are equally proud of the difference they have made to individuals and communities across Kent in recent years. Our commitment to provide an inspirational and sustainable countryside experience for Kent's residents and visitors has continued apace this year, even within the context of significant financial pressures.



A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

After a written submission, the Kent Country Parks team were invited to give oral evidence at the Government Select Committee into the Future of Public Parks. This was a great opportunity to discuss at a national level, the model of parks delivery that Kent uses to benchmark against other local authorities and organisations.

We are now 77% self-funding meaning this year we only cost 21p per Kent taxpayer



HEADLINE STATS



BUDGET

INCOME GENERATED	£1,319,904
KCC BUDGET	£452,000

HEALTH & WELLBEING

We have invested in a brand new Tramper mobility scooter and an all terrain Mountain Trike Wheelchair. This means customers with a range of mobility issues can access the outdoors and all the health benefits that this provides at both Shorne Woods and Lullingstone Country Parks.

Well established ParkRun events at Lullingstone, Shorne Woods and Pegwell Bay and a Junior Parkrun event at Manor Park have encouraged over 380



runners of all ages to get out there and get active in the parks every week. Lullingstone Parkrun celebrated its 100th run anniversary in style with centurion themed fancy dress and plenty of cake.



A further 63 runners competed in the newly re-established Shorne Woods 5 Miler.

A brand new outdoor gym has been installed at Shorne Woods and the trim trails have been repaired and renewed at Shorne Woods and Trosley; 75m of new easy access pathway has been created to improve access at Shorne Woods and 350m of new easy access pathway created at Manor Park to create a new circular route from the carpark. Across the parks over 2500m of multi-use pathway resurfacing has been completed along with the installation of seven new interpretation and information boards and waymarker improvements to ensure that visitors can navigate their way around the parks with ease.

SPECIAL VISITORS

We had our first confirmed recording of Emerald Willow Damselflies at Shorne Woods, as verified by the British Dragonfly Society.



EDUCATION

We have invested heavily in our Education spaces this year. Lullingstone has benefitted from a brand new outdoor classroom nestled in the woods. The Forest School area has been expanded and improved as well as the education pond receiving brand new dipping platforms and fencing, all of which will ensure better access to the outdoors all year.



Trosley has gained a new sensory garden area that will improve wildlife and education activities. Working alongside a local student from Dover Grammar School and the amazing Brockhill volunteer team have a new gravel kitchen and interactive water cycle on offer to visiting students this year.



- Over 8,500 children from 97 schools, 12 nurseries and pre-schools, 13 community groups, four Home Education groups and three colleges engaged with nature through our Education programmes.
- 1,700 children visited our Forest Schools and 2064 children attended birthday parties
- 82 teachers trained to spread the word

So what do our customers say?

In the summer, we asked our customers what they think of us, and we were given a 9.25 out of 10 overall satisfaction rate. Our customers reported that....

VOICE OF THE CUSTOMER

Gravel Hill Primary – Bexleyheath - Early Years Class

"Hands on experience we are unable to provide at school"

A parent at a den building birthday

"I cannot believe how these 8 year old lads who are normally glued to their electronic devices, have so quickly got stuck in and built the den... it's brilliant".



New tramper user

'Great day out with the family. What a fantastic service the tramper hire is for those less able . Seventeen weeks into compound tibia fracture. This was my first countryside access day out, a chance for me to enjoy the countryside with my husband, son, daughter in law and treasured grandchildren. Lilly the dog enjoyed it too.

AWARDS

GREEN FLAG AWARD

We are delighted that Shorne Woods, Lullingstone, Manor Park, Teston Bridge, Trosley, Brockhill and Pegwell Bay all retained this prestigious award.

SOUTH & SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM

For the 12th year running we have been awarded;

GOLD AWARD - Shorne, Lullingstone

SILVER GILT AWARD- Trosley



MEET GEOFF Warden at Pegwell Bay since 2012

Geoff joined us when Pegwell Bay joined the Country Parks portfolio and since that point has worked tirelessly to bring the site back into good order for the public to enjoy. Geoff regularly works above and beyond the call of his duties and demonstrates a real passion and commitment to the park that encourages customers to visit time and time again. Geoff works alongside outside parties such as ParkRun and the Saxons Running Group to ensure that we are able to host these events at the site. This sometimes means working late into the night and the early hours to accommodate overnight marathons, which in the last two years alone, have brought in £2,000 of additional income which we invest directly back into the parks.

Geoff was nominated for recognition through the Because of You awards scheme and was presented with his well-deserved award for outstanding contribution to the team by Councillor Clive Pearman.



GET IN TOUCH

✉ kentcountryparks@kent.gov.uk

🌐 kent.gov.uk/kentcountryparks

