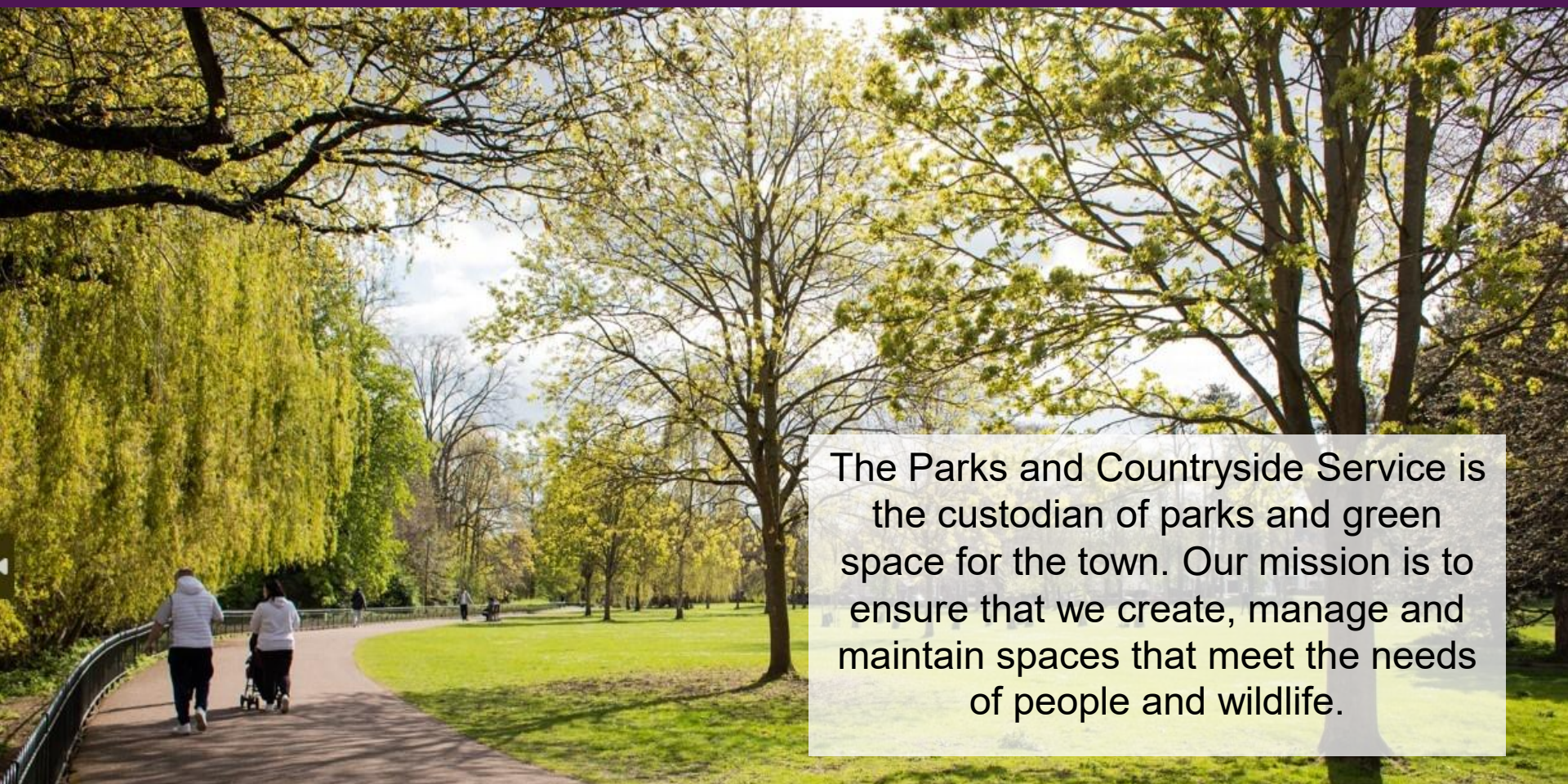




# Luton's Parks and Countryside Services



The Parks and Countryside Service is the custodian of parks and green space for the town. Our mission is to ensure that we create, manage and maintain spaces that meet the needs of people and wildlife.



# Luton's Parks and Green Spaces

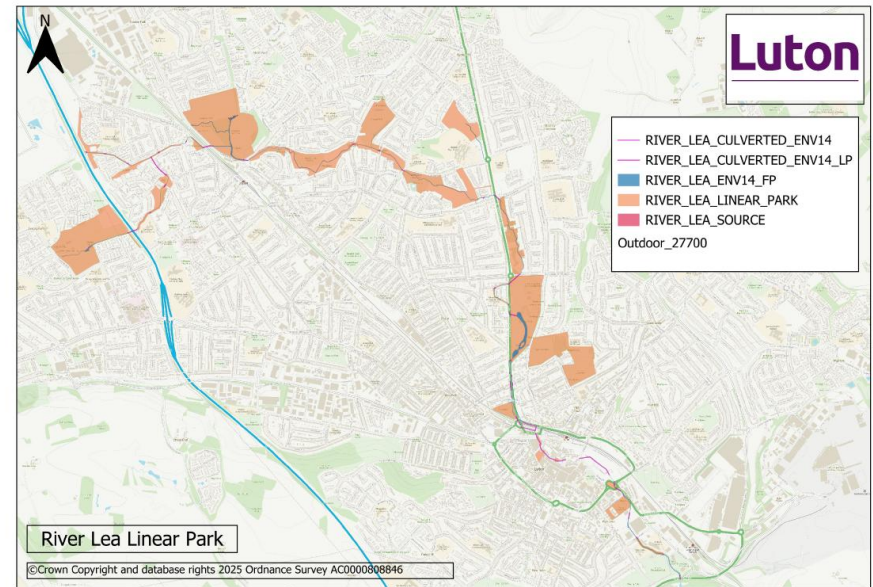
Luton's parks and green spaces need to be multifunctional to meet the needs of all users. Our work to enhance the access includes:

- Ensuring protection exists for parks and countryside areas through planning designations
- Projects to improve green spaces often through external funding and working with partners
- Events in parks. For example, the Luton Carnival, Luton Mela, Eid, ParkRun etc.
- Improving physical accessibility to parks and green spaces including:
  - footpaths and lighting (e.g. at Kingsway Park)
  - accessible play equipment
  - signage and interpretation



# River Lea Linear Park

- A River Lea Linear Park would resolve the deficiency in relation to a 60+ hectare country park that serves the needs of Luton residents.
- Funding has been secured for a River Lea Project Officer who is now in post to deliver this vision.



# Wardown Lake Heritage Project

- We were awarded £274k from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop a project to restore the boating lake and its natural heritage at Wardown Park. This includes putting together a community engagement plan.
- Project officers are in place to deliver this first stage.





# Play area redevelopment

- Current programme to replace end of life play areas and work to make them more accessible including augmented communication boards which allow non-verbal users/visitors to better communicate.
- Outdoor classroom in Wardown Park Arboretum which is used by the Wildlife Trust to run outdoor home-schooling sessions



# Allotments

- There are 13 allotment sites (6 managed by associations, 7 managed by us) in Luton with over 1300 plots available
- Allotments are a great cross-section of Luton's population
- Our aspiration is to have this managed by a third-party organisation





# Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

- Luton manages three SSSIs; Galley and Warden Hill, Dallow and Winsdon Hill and Cowslip Meadow. These require a lot of annual work from volunteers and contractors.
- The Wildlife Trust BCN have been a key partner in managing these sites for us for many years
- There are aspirations for improved access within the sites (e.g. boardwalk at Cowslip Meadow) as well as connectivity with other wildlife sites in the landscape.





# Volunteering

- Weekly nature conservation volunteer activities and gardening in Wardown Park.
- Supporting activities of partner organisations such as Friends groups, GoodGym and to enhance biodiversity, quality and access to green spaces.





# DEFRA Access Funding

- Improved signage and interpretation at three of our riverside sites: Riverside Park, Stony Hill and Cowslip Meadow SSSI
- Creation of an accessible path from Midhurst Gardens to Fallowfield CWS
- Timber mobility kissing gates at Riverside Park and improved access at Stony Hill



# Working with partners

- Supporting and celebrating projects such as the Luton Peace Garden Initiative, Luton Orchards Project, Penrose Roots 2 Recovery garden and Groundwork's Memorial Park garden in our parks and green spaces





# Working with you

We are always keen to support quality projects that add value for the local community

