

Careers at The Parks Trust

The Parks Trust was established as an independent charity in 1992 to care for over 6,000 acres of beautiful and inspirational green space in Milton Keynes. This includes parks, ancient woodlands, lakes, river valleys and 80 miles of landscaped areas along the city's grid roads.

In most towns and cities, parkland is owned by the local authority or council but Milton Keynes' founders were pioneers and decided to do things differently. Their vision was to create a new town where the parkland and landscapes would be protected forever by a charity that was separate from local government. This would ensure that, as Milton Keynes grew, its green spaces would never be compromised or have to fight for funding.



Working for a charity

Why might someone choose to work for a charity? Consider the advantages and disadvantages of working in this type of organisation. Think about personal interests and values, wages, fulfilment.

<i>Advantages</i>	<i>Disadvantages</i>

Job Roles

Over 100 staff and 240 volunteers deliver the essential work of The Parks Trust. In addition to landscaping and maintenance tasks, that also includes providing valuable recreation and leisure facilities, connecting communities at over 500 outdoor events each year, working with local schools and the public to educate them about the wildlife, biodiversity and the environment of Milton Keynes, ensuring that appropriate wildlife habitats are created and maintained and keeping the parks clean and safe for everyone who visits.

Who's Who?

Read the job descriptions below and see if you can match them up to the job role.

1. I am responsible for the day to day management and development of The Parks Trust's social media, website and email campaigns. Every day is different as I work across various digital marketing channels and work with the wider team in sharing our company news and activities.

2. I patrol across the parks in my truck and on foot checking on our sheep and cattle and helping to help prevent incidents of anti-social behaviour, unsafe activities and damage. I carry out repairs and clean-ups or report these to the necessary team if it is something I can't do myself. I engage with park users regarding water safety and BBQs and answer their questions about the local area.

3. I am part of the team that manages our buildings. These are the places such as offices and industrial units that we rent out to generate the income needed to do the work in our parks. I oversee the maintenance, leasing and lettings by instructing contractors and negotiating with tenants.

4. Some days I will be out doing plant surveys, habitat assessments, or site visits to create new ponds and woodland. Other days I will be in the office writing up reports, carrying out important mapping of our species and habitats, or project planning for large and exciting habitat creation projects.

5. I help to keep our maintenance and landscape teams running smoothly by making sure the they know what work needs to be done in the parks. This includes planting trees and thinning overgrown areas. I make sure all the machinery and vehicles are working and also help with any hard landscaping such as putting in benches or bridges and doing any maintenance that is required within our parks.



Lewis
Senior Biodiversity Officer



Christina
Digital Marketing Manager



Susi
Community Ranger



Ben
Direct Works Assistant Foreman



Terri
Property and Asset Manager

Once you have matched them up, go through each job role and consider whether you think it would involve working mostly indoors or outside. Label each role I (indoors) or O (outside).

Do you think this might change throughout the year?
What factors might affect each person's daily tasks within their role?

The Right Equipment for the Job



Underneath each of the pictures, write the name or job role of the person at The Parks Trust that you think might use this equipment, item or location in their day to day job. There could be more than one person for each picture.

Finding the Right Job for You

Have a look at the careers cards or watch the videos that tell you about different job roles at The Parks Trust. Use the information from the cards to complete the table below.

Job title	Duties	Skills needed	Would I like this job? Give the role a score out of 10 for how well you think you would be suited to it.



Now compare the job roles that you looked at with someone else in the room. Which role at The Parks Trust do you think you would enjoy the most?

People enjoy different things and we all have different skills and qualities that we can bring to the workforce. An organisation like The Parks Trust needs people doing all of these different roles to enable them to operate successfully.

Take a class vote, which job role would people in your class like to do?