

Dewsbury Country Park

It's been a great year...



“The Country Park is undergoing a huge transformation from what it was before, this is giving a huge lift to the area. I’m very pleased with the vital work done by volunteers, Council staff and partners that is helping create a green lung in a built up area. Dewsbury Country Park has received a glowing endorsement from Woodland Trust who has said that it is one of the best examples of involving the local community in creating a Diamond Wood, making it the ‘jewel in the crown’ for the Yorkshire and Humber region.”

LEADER OF KIRKLEES COUNCIL,
COUNCILLOR MEHBOOB KHAN



Growing History

- The Forestry Commission granted £516,000 to help us create the largest new woodland in Yorkshire.
- The Woodland Trust supported Dewsbury Country Park to become one of only 60 Diamond Woods in Britain.
- The final woodland will cover 101 acres.

“Together we’ve created something living, meaningful and lasting to hand on to future generations. In just 10 years the trees will be taller than the average person and the woodland will be full of wildlife for many people to enjoy.”

**Doug Edmondson,
Woodland Creation Advisor, Woodland Trust**



- 145 people attended the first community tree planting day and planted over 1000 trees
- Schools, community groups and local businesses and plenty of local people took the '1,000 tree challenge' planting 4000 trees as part of the Trees for Yorkshire campaign.
- 300 local school children planted a sapling and took part activities to learn about the role of woodlands in history and the environment.
- Community and business volunteers cleared the undergrowth of the Lower Spen Nature Reserve bringing light and space into the woodland.



Community Tree Planting

Support



Under the Trees for Yorkshire campaign with support from partner organisations 39,000 trees have been planted at Dewsbury Country Park this year. That's a log of digging!



Leaving a legacy



"I planted a tree in memory of my father. We need to invest in the Countryside... I want the countryside and these trees to be there for future generations and for my grandchildren to see and enjoy." (local resident, Dewsbury Moor)

"A whole batch of Pine planted and I'm hoping to watch them grow from my window." (local resident, Dewsbury Moor)

"We can come back every year as a family to see our trees grow and develop – just like our family" (local family, Ravensthorpe)

"We've had a fabulous time with this once in a lifetime opportunity. We hope the trees will be a symbol of hope, peace, memory and unity for the community and the world at large." (local family)

Carbon Reduction



“Over the first 100 years of the woodland , 14500 tonnes of carbon dioxide will be taken out of the atmosphere and absorbed into the trees.

Kirklees Council, as part of the White Rose Forest partnership, has set up a nationally recognised carbon offsetting group to enable owners of new woodland to sell or report the carbon ‘captured’ by their trees.

Tree species found in the Country Park:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Alder | Rowan |
| Aspen | Scots Pine |
| Elder | Sessile Oak |
| Field Maple | Silver Birch |
| Hawthorn | Small Leaf Lime |
| Hazel | Whitebeam |
| Red Oak | Willow |

Teaching staff from 11 local schools took part in a Forest School training session to learn how the Country Park could play a part in supporting children's learning and development.

"I enjoyed spending time in the outdoors, feeling some of the emotions the children might feel such as achievement, perseverance, fulfilment and inspiration"
(school teacher)

Ravensthorpe Women's Walking Group took part in an 'Art Walk' to mark International Women's Day. They created Japanese hapazome prints using leaves and flowers collected at the park.

"Guided sessions deepen my appreciation: I learn things as an adult and then I can share and pass this on to my children. There are so many things here to learn about and learn from"
(Gomersal resident)



Learning
and skill
sharing

Having a say

- The Landscaping project



546 people, 5 schools and 7 community groups took part in the Landscaping consultation activities to share what's important to them and help shape the plans for the future of the park.

32 sessions included: Family Woodcraft; Outdoor Play; Natural Art; Wild Words Walk; Fire and Shelter and Forest School skills.

"I'm amazed there's so much I can do here. I can come down here with my children anytime rather than travelling to places like Alton Towers. I'm already thinking about and planning next year's activities that I can do here with friends and cousins. We'll be coming back!" (Mirfield resident)

The Earthworks project started in April 2013 to look at landscape design proposals to improve the entrances to the park.

10 community groups and schools have creatively explored patterns in nature to help generate design ideas.

An exhibition of Earthworks artworks and the entrance designs will be on show at Dewsbury Museum starting 27 July through to September 2013.



Getting involved

- The Earthworks project



Dewsbury Country Park provides a home for diverse wildlife:

Blackcap	Hay rattle
Brown hare	Heron
Brown Hawker dragonfly	House sparrows
Chiff chaff	Kestrel
Coltsfoot	Kingfisher
Common frog	Mallard
Common toad	Meadow Brown butterfly
Coot	Moorhen
Cow parsley	Ox-eye daisy
Diving beetle	Pipistrelle bat
Field vole	Rabbit
Fox	Red clover
Grasshopper warbler	Smooth newt
Grey squirrel	Sticklebacks
	Tawny owl
	Weasel
	Willow warbler

3 ponds have been extended, 2 new ponds have been created; creating nearly 4 hectares of wetland habitat and we have begun restoring 8 hectares of meadow land.

12 Westborough High pupils got involved in digging new ponds, and clearing old ones

"I want the woodland to be a home for many birds and animals" Sumayyah Loonat, Age 11

"It has been great to see the local community getting so involved, and I am sure that it will provide a good opportunity for people to enjoy and learn about the natural environment on their doorstep."

Susan Booth Lead Adviser, Engagement Local Delivery Team, Natural England.



Thriving
nature

Thank you

White Rose Forest Partnership
Forestry Commission
The Woodland Trust
Forest of Bradford
Cummins Turbo Technologies
HSBC
Environmental Alliance Ltd
TCV
Groundwork
Kirklees Community Payback
Green for Go
Dewsbury Trefoil Guild
Street scene apprentices
Kirklees Countryside Volunteers
Bradford Environmental Education Service
Al Marhdi Mosque group
Dewsbury Team Parish Clergy
Ravensthorpe Residents Action Group
KCA - Kirklees Community Association
Canals and River Trust
Green Business Network
Dewsbury Museum
Friends of Crow Nest Park
Spensborough Road Runners
Dewsbury Ramblers
Dewsbury Moor Rugby League Club
Ravensthorpe Women's Walking Group
S2R - Support To Recovery
Dewsbury Moor & Scout Hill Children's Centre
The Greenwood Centre

Heckmondwike Children's Centre
Heckmondwike Scouts
Ansaar Scout Group
Organised Chaos
Dewsbury Moor Young People's Service
Saturday Legends - young people's group
Knowles Hill I & J School
Westmoor Junior School
St Joseph's Primary School
Boothroyd Infant & Junior School
St Paulinus Catholic Primary School
Cawley Lane J I and N School
Ravensthorpe CE Junior School
Ravensthorpe Infant and Nursery School
Flatts Nursery
St John's CE Infants School
Boothroyd Infant & Junior School
Westborough High School
Crossley Fields J & I School
Oldbank J, I & N School
Batley Business and Enterprise College
Kirklees College - Batley Art Campus
Get Out More CIC

Imagine ...

what we'll achieve together in the next 12 months



Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with what's happening...
www.facebook.com/dewsburycountrypark

