

Leicestershire County Council Country Parks Action Plan 2020 - 2022

APPENDIX A



Beacon Hill

Watermead

Market Bosworth

Our Destination Parks

Bosworth
Battlefield

Broombriggs
Farm

Snibston

Introduction

This Action Plan is part of our Draft Country Parks Strategy and outlines our plans for the management and development of our six destination and smaller parks over the next 3 years.

Our vision:

“To have great parks that improve the quality of life for Leicestershire’s communities and visitors”.

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Our Action Plan is focused around six key objectives that will drive the development of our country parks and open spaces and support the delivery of the Council’s Strategic Outcomes.

Volunteering
and
Community

Culture and
Heritage

Education
and Learning

Ecology and
Environment

Health and
wellbeing

The actions detailed within this plan contribute to the successful delivery of our Strategic Priorities, Strategies and Plans



Wellbeing and Opportunity

By providing opportunities for the public to access and enjoy green spaces that contribute towards their health and well being



Great communities

Providing green infrastructure and open spaces that will be used by all



Environment Strategy

Supporting environmentally sustainable practices to conserve and enhance the character, heritage and accessibility of the Leicestershire landscape for future generations



Tree Strategy

Preserving and maintaining our trees and woodlands and increasing our tree planting activity



Biodiversity Action Plan

By managing its land with nature conservation designations in ways that maintain and enhance their biodiversity value

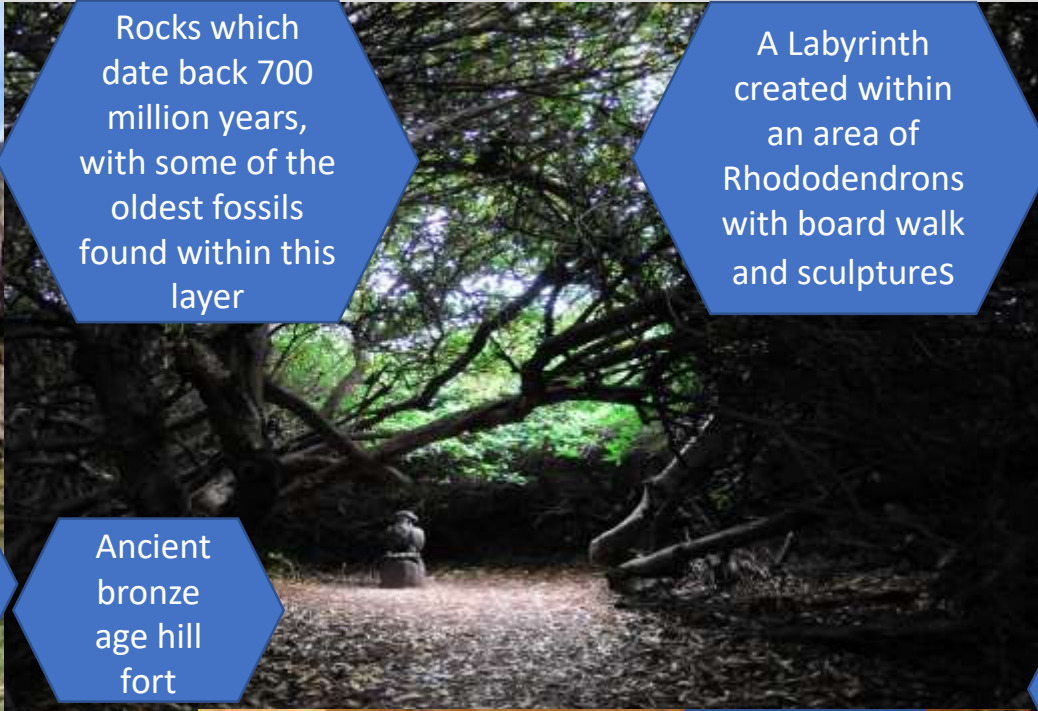
Park Management across all our parks

Priorities	Key actions / Tasks
Ensure that our parks are safe and secure places for people to visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine regular maintenance of park infrastructure • Implementation of comprehensive safety and security measures
Identify new ways of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make applications for countryside stewardship grant and environmental support schemes • Seek sponsorship for events and activities by working in partnership with local businesses which have connections to the parks • Secure funding through Section 106 planning obligations • Encourage donations and legacies • Develop a programme of events to maximise income • Apply for woodland improvement stewardship grant
Increase our commercial activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop our marketing and communications strategy to encourage more visitors to the parks to increase revenue from our car parks, and café facilities • Consider the introduction of corporate activity days to increase revenue
Volunteering and community engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number and variety of volunteering to enable people to get involved with all aspects of park management • Seek additional volunteer support through the council's existing volunteer network • Develop strong links with Leicestershire schools and academies to support learning and encourage participation in environmental activities • Promote volunteering opportunities through the Parks websites and social media
Achieve accreditation and recognition of our parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve Green Flag status for each of our destination parks

Beacon Hill



The formation "old man of the Beacon" is a local famous landmark



Rocks which date back 700 million years, with some of the oldest fossils found within this layer

A Labyrinth created within an area of Rhododendrons with board walk and sculptures

Ancient bronze age hill fort



Leicestershire's second highest point at 248m.

Woodland walks, national forest trail, play areas, dog walking, cycling, horse riding, orienteering and picnicking

The primitive livestock and alpacas are a popular addition to the landscape



A site of SSSI due to its important heathland and woodland species

Green flag Status



Beacon Hill Café and visitor facilities



Areas of interest include Wildflower meadow, ponds, woodlands, native tree collection and heathland

Beacon Hill

Priority	Action	Target Date
Develop our visitor attractions and amenities	Extend and develop the sculpture trail	2021 – 2023
	Further develop the Labyrinth as a children’s attraction	2020
	Extend the children’s play areas	2021
	Develop the new café facilities as a focal point of community engagement and events	2020
Encourage participation in Health and wellbeing activities	Organise regular Park run events	2020
	Install an all-ages trim trail on West Beacon fields	2021
	Improve and develop our “Waymarked” information to encourage outdoor activities	2020

Beacon Hill

Priorities	Actions	Target date
Increase the biodiversity within our parks and appreciation of diverse habitats for plants, birds and other wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re- negotiate the Countryside Higher Level Stewardship agreement with Natural England to continue and expand on management of SSSI 	2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance our SSSI status through fulfilling management prescriptions, conservation grazing and other programmes of works 	2020-2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage the development of woodlands and grasslands for nature conservation 	2020-2023
Manage, preserve and increase appreciation of our heritage assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved network of paths to encourage visitors to explore and spread out throughout the park 	2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the interpretation of Bronze age hill fort 	2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish links with schools and agricultural colleges for education visits and self-led visits 	2020-2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce an education pack for school self-guided visits 	2020-2021

Snibston Country Park



The Park includes The Grange local Nature Reserve



The pit bank is a fantastic view point overlooking the local area




The site has strong links to local mining history



Mature woodland, wildflower meadow, dipping ponds and a wildflower marshland



Fishing available in the Carp and Match Lakes



There are a network of walking trails through the park, and the national 'Route 52' bike route

Snibston

Priority	Action	Target Date
Develop our visitor attractions and amenities	Combine and develop a joint café facility with the Century Theatre	2020-2021
	Install improved car parking payment systems	2020-2021
	Develop interpretation information	2020
Encourage participation in Health and wellbeing activities	Develop new mountain bike trails	2020-2021
	Improve signage for walking trails	2020-2021
	Develop a new play area for children	2021
	Develop the “Pump track”	2021-2022

Market Bosworth



The park has children's play area, boat house, wildflower meadow, stew ponds, bird feeding and weather stations

The Bow pool is a good place for watching wildfowl, fishing and feeding the ducks

Park has Green flag status

The arboretum contains a wide range of interesting specimen trees

Accessible paths for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Walking routes include the Leicestershire Round and footpaths to Bosworth Battlefield

Situated within the historic market town, with many shops, clubs, pubs and points of interest to visit

The parkland was originally established by the Harcourt family who gained the land after the Norman Conquest

During the late 18th century, the park was landscaped in the style of the designer Capability Brown

This site also benefits from a dedicated weekly volunteer group

Market Bosworth Country Park

Priority	Action	Target Date
Develop our visitor attractions and amenities	Provide refreshment outlets for visitors	2022
	Develop eco-friendly visitor facilities including a café and educational facilities	2020-2023
	Extend visitor access across the park to include access through the current pasture landscape	2020
Encourage participation in Health and wellbeing activities	Develop and re-locate the children's play facilities	2021


Market Bosworth Country Park

Priority	Action	Target Date
Increase the biodiversity within our parks and appreciation of diverse habitats for plants, birds and other wildlife	Continue to improve and develop the Arboretum by :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planting specimen trees to enhance seasonal interest - bulb and shrub planting to further enrich this landscape feature 	2020-2023
	Further develop and integrate the grass land and parkland habitats into the park's natural landscape	2021 - 2022
	Develop and improve the Bow pool lake and Stew ponds through the planting of waterbodies to improve interest and diversity	2020 – 2023
	Identify areas for less intensive management to allow for a wilder meadow environment	2020-2023
	Enhance the landscape with parkland tree planting	2020-2023


Bosworth Battlefield




Schools visits to this site organised by the heritage team




Shenton Station is along the battlefield line and regularly has events and trains which brings in interest.



There is a small local producer of pottery, glassblower and a café at the station



This is the site of the battle of Bosworth famous for the fall of King Richard III




There are a number of walking routes around the site, joining with Shenton station and the Ashby canal.



Heritage centre trail gives information about the rich history of this site



Tyth barn café and Heritage Centre.

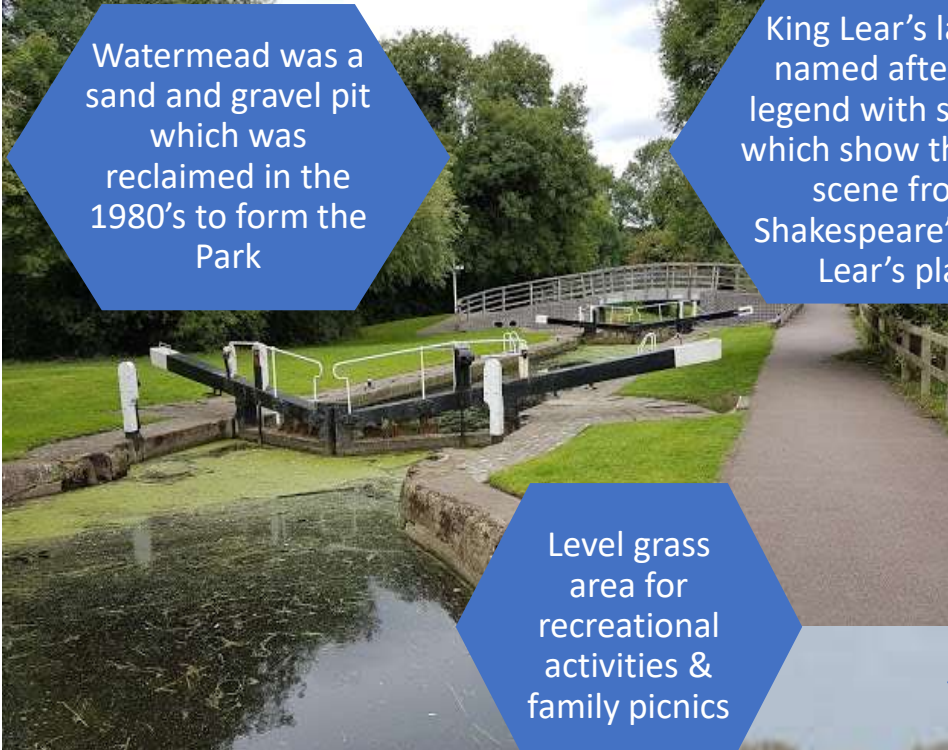


Sundial area is a beautiful focal point in the parkland


Market Bosworth Battlefield

Priority	Action	Target Date
Develop our visitor attractions and amenities	Work with our heritage partners to jointly develop a programme of events	2020 -2021
	Upgrade the car parking facilities with the installation of new pay machines	2020
	Improve interpretation on the country park to reflect landscape and wildlife area	2021
Encourage participation in Health and wellbeing activities	Improve the tracks and trails development around the Battlefield estate	2021-2022
	Improve pedestrian user access including walking routes to Shenton railway line	2021-2022


Watermead



Watermead was a sand and gravel pit which was reclaimed in the 1980's to form the Park



King Lear's lake is named after the legend with statues which show the final scene from Shakespeare's King Lear's play



Regular country parks volunteers meetings to carry out conservation tasks



Level grass area for recreational activities & family picnics



Over 200 species of birds have been recorded here




John Merrick's lake, Lily Pond & King Lear's lake provide opportunities for fishing & other activities

Accessible tracks for families on foot or on bicycles



Wetlands, grass lands meadows, marshland & woodland



The reedbed reserve has bird hides a sand martin nesting wall and views of wildlife habitats



Jurassic Play trail for children

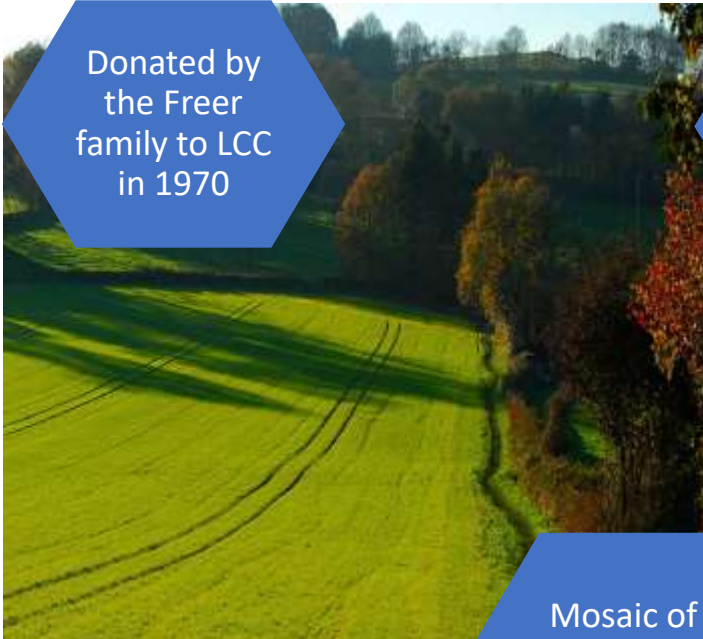
Watermead

Priority	Action	Target Date
Develop our visitor attractions and amenities	Develop a catering offer for visitors	2020-2021
	Rationalise car parking arrangements and improve visitor access to the park	2020
	Develop the Children's maze and improve the dinosaur trail and play equipment	2021
	Refurbish visitor toilets and wash room	2020-2021
Encourage participation in Health and wellbeing activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the Reedbed nature reserve as a well-being area 	2020-2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce a programme of park runs and 3 park challenge event 	2020

Watermead

Priority	Action	Target Date
Increase the biodiversity within our parks and appreciation of diverse habitats for plants, birds and other wildlife	Develop the nature reserve to support the delivery of the Biodiversity Action Plan and the Environment Strategy	2020-2023
	Improve nature reserve habitats and develop more opportunities for wildlife watching	2020-2023
Working with schools and communities	Offer a range of school activity days	2021
	Design and build an education/interpretation facility to provide a new focal point for the park	2020
Develop volunteering opportunities	Continue to develop and expand the range of volunteering opportunities available	2020-2023

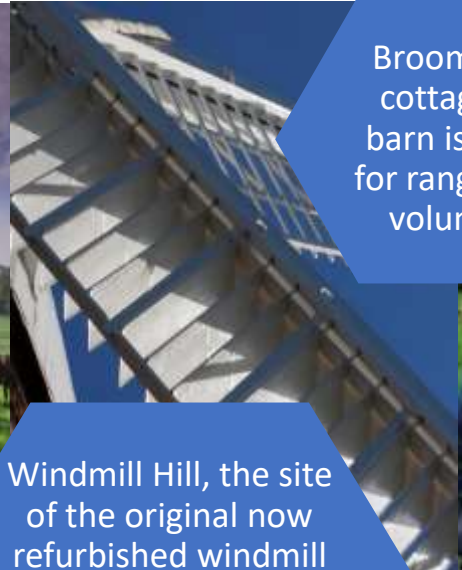
Broombriggs farm and Windmill Hill Country Park



Donated by the Freer family to LCC in 1970



Grazing cattle and sheep with arable planting



Windmill Hill, the site of the original now refurbished windmill viewing platform over the countryside and soar valley



Broombriggs cottage and barn is a base for rangers and volunteers



Mosaic of small fields with drystone walls, hedgerows and woodlands with parkland trees



Bluebells, wood anemones and celandines carpet wooded areas throughout spring



Pathways, bridle tracks, viewing platform with countryside views

Broombriggs farm and Windmill Hill Country Park

Priority	Action	Target Date
Develop our visitor attractions and amenities	Expand and improve car parking facilities with new solar cashless pay and display machines	2020-2021
	Develop an action plan to achieve Green flag status	2022
Encourage participation in Health and wellbeing activities	Improve the network of paths to encourage visitors to explore the wider park	2020
Increase the biodiversity within our parks and appreciation of diverse habitats for plants, birds and other wildlife	Improve farming practices to be more sensitive to local environment and wildlife	2020-2022
	Extend the orchard and develop agro-forestry schemes	2021
Manage, preserve and increase appreciation of our heritage assets	Weatherproof the windmill viewing platform and stairs	2020
	Develop the access and interpretation information of the Windmill	2020
	Review the farm tenancy to give greater emphasis on conservation farming	2020
	Review the use of Broombriggs Farm Cottage	2020
Identify new ways of funding	Complete the application for the stewardship grant	2020


A photograph of a forest path with a white-bordered text box in the center. The path is made of dirt and leads into a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The lighting is soft, suggesting a shaded forest environment. The text is centered within the white box.

Our Heart of the Forest and Secondary Parks

Our Heart of the National Forest Parks

- Leicestershire County Council has 6 small country parks situated within a 10 square mile area within the Heart of the National Forest (HoF).
- The priority for this area has been to develop the parks and green spaces for the enjoyment of local residents and to develop the area as a tourist destination and exemplar for the wider 200 square mile National Forest.
- These ex-colliery sites were adopted by LCC during the 1990s and have interesting individual mining heritage histories.
- Following reclamation & re-landscaping from their industrial past, these sites have been designed for visitor enjoyment and conservation.
- Tree cover has grown from approximately 1% to 27% in the last 25 years.
- The developing woodlands have transformed the area and are now at first thinning stage.
- The Heart of the Forest parks are extremely valuable to local people and visitors to the area, but due to their unique history and conservation management have high levels of biodiversity.

Our Heart of the Forest and Secondary Parks

	Park Management and Maintenance	FREQUENCY
	Develop individual park plans to enhance and meet community needs	2020-2021
Heart of the National Forest Sites	All aspects of estate maintenance: installations, repairs, path works, interpretation, bin collection, litter picking	Ongoing
 <p>3. Our parks</p> <p>Country parks Our four country parks are developed in a variety of landscapes, offering a range of activities and facilities. The parks are managed in a way that ensures they are accessible to all and provide a high quality experience for all visitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Malvern Country Park 2 Beacon Hill Country Park 3 Newburgh Farm & Wooded Hill 4 Watermead Country Park 5 Water Research Country Park 6 Newbath Stables Country Park <p>Secondary parks and open spaces The National Forest has a large number of secondary parks and open spaces, which are managed in a way that ensures they are accessible to all and provide a high quality experience for all visitors. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Ashford Wood 2 Blyth Wood 3 Blyth Wood 4 Blyth Wood 5 Blyth Wood 6 Blyth Wood 7 Blyth Wood 8 Blyth Wood 9 Blyth Wood 10 Blyth Wood <p>Locations of our country parks</p>	Health and safety inspections including: mine, site, equipment, workplace, tree inspections and risk assessments	Daily visual inspections, formal 6-weekly – 6-monthly recorded
	Grass cutting regimes: amenity cuts, wildflower meadows, strimming, hedge cutting/flailing and spraying	Bi-monthly / annually / when required
	Woodland & Tree Management: All aspects of silviculture including: Planting, pruning, coppicing, thinning.	October – March and when required
	Wildlife surveys, registered butterfly transects	Spring – Autumn
	All other habitat management / conservation work not listed above	Ongoing

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