### Management of Parks and Open Spaces

Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee

Date: 10 April 2025





#### **Presentation Summary**

- Types of Open Space
- Resources
- Volunteer/Volunteer Groups
- Support
- Other Agencies
- Inspections/Health and Safety
- Other Undertakings



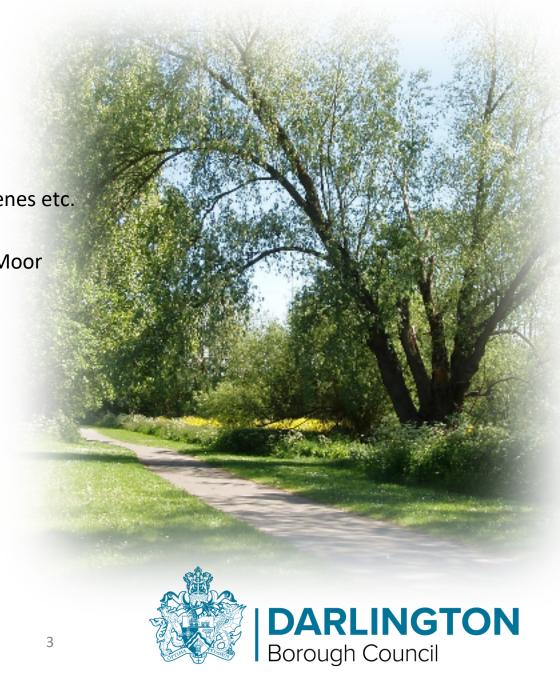
# Types of Open Space

Formal manicured park i.e. South Park

Other formal parks i.e. North Lodge Park, North Park, The Denes etc.

Designated Local Nature Reserves i.e. Maidendale, Brankin Moor

- Nature Reserves i.e. Snipe Pond
- Managed Spaces i.e. Friars Field
- Unmanaged Spaces i.e. Mill Lane, Toy Top etc.
- Open Spaces in Council Estates
- Grass Verges etc.



#### Resources

- 665 hectares across the Borough (2014 survey)
- 2 x Officers
- 2 x Countryside Rangers
- 3 x Gardeners (South Park)
- 3 x Sheltered Housing Team
- 2 x Garden Tidy Team
- 16 x Grounds Maintenance Operatives
- Budget £932,988





# Volunteers/Volunteer Groups

- 17 x Friends Groups
- 738 Street Champions
- Darlington Forest Project
- South Park Foundation
- DOVES





## Support

- Attend Friends' Groups meetings
- Provide advice on conservation issues (Countryside Ranger is an Ecologist)
- Organise events on behalf of Friends' Groups etc., and/or help organise events.
- Support projects by procuring contractors
- Provide equipment
- Consult with other departments/organisations (i.e. Groundwork NE&C, Tees Rivers Trust etc.)
- Task volunteers with jobs
- Work with Environment Agency in relation to the filling of ponds with fish.
- PESAG





## Other Agencies

- Darlington Cares
- Other businesses
- Schools
- Durham Wildlife Trust
- Environment Agency
- Northumbrian Water





## Inspections/Health and Safety

- Inspect named parks twice per week (South Park, The Denes and West Park)
- Inspect other parks weekly
- Inspect nature reserves monthly
- Safety at tourist areas i.e. Broken Scar
- River cleanses
- Invasive species i.e. Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed
- Work with Police/Fire Service and other agencies
- Multi-agency exercise









## Other Undertakings

- Wildflowers 22 meadow areas across the Borough (24405.39 m<sup>2</sup>)
  - 'Carbon 4 Grass' trial to be undertaken in 6 areas
- Allotments 13 self-managed sites
  - 3 DBC sites (Arnold Road, Honeypot Lane and Parkside)
- Sports pitches maintenance of
- Bowling greens
- Play areas
- Trees







