Welcome to Have a Field Day

What is Have a Field Day?

Have a Field Day is a celebration of our much loved parks and green spaces. On Saturday 7th July, Fields in Trust is encouraging local communities to come together and demonstrate why you love your local park.

Parks and green spaces are a well loved part of our local landscape and used by the whole community from pre-school children to retired adults; but funding cuts mean these green spaces are under threat, less well maintained and at risk of development.

The national Have a Field Day event will show the many different ways people use their public parks and why local communities value them so greatly.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

If you’re reading this then you’ve already registered your event as a Have a Field Day - thank you! You’ve joined a movement of park users across the country celebrating their local parks. What happens at your Have a Field Day is completely up to you.

Perhaps you’ll hold a dawn nature walk, host sports taster sessions, welcome the community for a fun picnic, or do something completely different. Once you’ve decided on how you’ll celebrate your local park we’d love to hear about it - email haveafieldday@fieldsintrust.org with details of your plans!

WHY SATURDAY 7TH JULY?

Have a Field Day takes place each year on the first Saturday in July. For 2018 it will be on Saturday 7th July. This weekend marks the anniversary of the inaugural meeting of the National Playing Fields Association, now known as Fields in Trust, at the Royal Albert Hall in London in 1925. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s the NPFA held ‘Playing Fields Days’ to raise money to support their work. Have a Field Day is the modern-day version of the Playing Fields Days of almost a century ago. The message is the same, however - to use, love and value our local green spaces!

“Britain has the comeliest, most enchanting, abundant and often venerable parks and green spaces of any country I know. Wherever you are, you are never more than a few minutes from woods, greensward and fresh air. How splendid is that? I am delighted to see them celebrated by Fields in Trust.”

Fields in Trust Ambassador, author Bill Bryson

OUR SUPPORT TO YOU

All registered events are eligible to access free downloadable support materials to help with the planning and delivery of your event. Simply visit the below link to view the materials.

www.fieldsintrust.org/haveafieldday/downloads

In addition, if you provided your address when you registered your event, close to Have a Field Day we’ll send you a support pack with some little goodies to help things go smoothly on the day, including:

- Some bunting to fly on the day to let fellow park users know where your Have a Field Day is taking place.
- A tree spotting guide and bug hunt card.
- Some posters to help advertise your event.
- An inspiration card.
Welcome to Have a Field Day

About Fields in Trust protection

Fields in Trust champions and supports our parks and green spaces by protecting them for people to enjoy in perpetuity. Because once lost, they are lost forever.

Parks and green spaces in the UK are under threat and it is up to all of us to stem this cycle of disappearance and decline. We believe that everyone, irrespective of who they are and where they live should have the right to enjoy and benefit from local parks and green spaces.

Parks and green spaces are proven to help people stay physically and mentally well; places where we can all move, breathe, run and play. They are an important tool to drive social cohesion, combat loneliness and build community spirit.

Fields in Trust is an independent charity with over 90 years’ experience protecting parks and green spaces. We work with landowners, community groups and policy makers to champion the value of our parks and green spaces to achieve better protection for their future at both local and national level.

SUPPORT

Parks and green spaces should be open to everyone, connecting people and catalysing community spirit. Places where we can all move, breathe, run and play. Parks and green spaces need supporting and protecting for the benefit of the communities they serve.

CHAMPION

We champion parks and green spaces at local and UK level and across multiple sectors and government departments. Parks and green spaces impact on a range of key wellbeing issues from physical and mental health to community cohesion but they are an undervalued resource.

FIELDS IN TRUST AWARDS

Held annually at Lord’s Cricket Ground in London, the Fields in Trust Awards recognise and reward the outstanding achievements of organisations and individuals connected to parks and playing fields during the previous year, as well as naming the UK’s Best Park, as voted by YOU!

POLICY

Our recently published Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play builds on our previous benchmark framework The Six Acre Standard and is the go-to reference point for anyone involved in the planning and development of outdoor space for sport and informal play.

PROTECT

Parks and green spaces are being lost to both development and budget cuts across the UK. We must act now to protect their future. Fields in Trust legally protects parks and green spaces in perpetuity by working proactively and in partnership with landowners across the UK.
Welcome to Have a Field Day

About Fields in Trust protection

Fields in Trust protects over 2,700 green spaces and we are committed to safeguarding the future of parks and green spaces across the UK.

Planning policy can be an effective way of protecting outdoor spaces but at both national and local level these policies are subject to change. This means that a long term guarantee of future access to vital green spaces can be difficult to deliver. Pressure for development of urban open space, open space on the urban fringe or in the countryside has never been greater.

Fields in Trust uses charity and contract law to establish binding agreements and commitments with landowners to protect valuable public and recreational land for the long-term.

We protect land through a Deed of Dedication. It’s a robust yet flexible way to do it. The Deeds are a legally binding document which means each field is protected for future generations to enjoy. We work in partnership with landowners including sports clubs, private individuals and local authorities to achieve this protection.

For more information about Fields in Trust protection and the process to get a Deed of Dedication for your local green space, please visit the below link.

www.fieldsintrust.org/protect

FINDING MY LOCAL PROTECTED SPACE

Want to find out if there’s a Fields in Trust protected space near you? There are over 2,700 spaces protected with Fields in Trust across the UK, covering around 12,000 hectares of land, so the chances are there’s one close by!

Simply visit the below link, enter your postcode and you’ll be shown all the sites near you that are protected with us as well as a little more information about each.

www.fieldsintrust.org/protected-spaces

OUR KEY PROTECTION PROGRAMMES

Green Spaces for Good
Our Green Spaces for Good programme can protect any publicly accessible park, playing field or nature reserve. We also have specific time-limited projects.

Active Spaces
Funded by the London Marathon Charitable Trust, Active Spaces is securing and activating 50 sites across the UK.

Centenary Fields
Centenary Fields is the other of our current protection programmes and is working across the UK in partnership with The Royal British Legion to secure recreational spaces in perpetuity to honour the memory of the millions of people who lost their lives in World War I.

Queen Elizabeth II Fields
Running from 2012 to 2014, the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge protected nearly 1,400 sites across the UK in celebration of the 2012 Diamond Jubilee.

King George V Playing Fields
Fields in Trust was founded in 1925 as the National Playing Fields Association by King George V. There are 471 sites across the UK protected in tribute to our founder.
Welcome to Have a Field Day
UK’s Best Park, as voted by YOU!

Is your local green space the best in the country? Here’s your chance to prove it, as part of Fields in Trust’s UK’s Best Park award.

Held annually as part of the Fields in Trust Awards, UK’s Best Park is a unique competition which sees much loved parks, playing fields and recreation grounds across the country nominated as the nation’s best by those who use them. All parks nominated then go to a public vote with the local green space to receive the most support named UK’s Best Park, as voted by YOU!

UK’s Best Park will open for nominations again this autumn. Nominating is quick and easy and if your nominated site is shortlisted you’ll be invited to represent it at the prestigious Fields in Trust Awards ceremony at Lord’s Cricket Ground in London.

TELFORD TOWN PARK

Telford Town Park in Shropshire was named the winner of the inaugural UK’s Best Park, as voted by YOU! award in 2015 after topping the poll of 122 nominated parks, playing fields and recreation grounds across the country.

Owned by Telford & Wrekin Council, the park was nominated by a member of ‘Friends of Telford Town Park’, a group which started in 2003 to help give the park extra care and attention. The park was nominated because of the range of attractions, new play features, a sensory garden, a fantastic mix of biodiversity and nature reserve as well as the more formal gardens - “something for everyone in other words”. A section of the field is protected with Fields in Trust as a Queen Elizabeth II Field.

ROUKEN GLEN PARK

The 2016 UK’s Best Park award saw nearly twice as many local green spaces involved with 214 nominations received for much loved community spaces across the UK.

Rouken Glen Park in East Renfrewshire was named UK’s Best Park 2016 after more than 10,000 public votes were cast as part of the award. Opened in 1906 the park was described in its nomination as ‘a place for people and nature’, with visitor numbers last year reaching nearly 1,000,000. The park has been awarded Green Flag status and is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

STANLEY PARK

In 2017 a record tally of over 14,000 votes were cast in total and it was Stanley Park in Blackpool, Lancashire which topped the list of 360 nominated parks.

Designed by celebrated landscape architect Thomas Mawson in the 1920s, the park boasts an Italian marble fountain, boating lake, bandstand, Medici lions, Italian gardens and Art Deco styled café.

Visit www.fieldsintrust.org/bestpark for more information, and to be among the first to hear when nominations open this year sign up for the free monthly Fields in Trust e-zine by visiting the below link.

www.fieldsintrust.org