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

Established in 1925, Fields in Trust is an independent charity with a wealth of experience in protecting parks and green spaces. We work with landowners, community groups and policymakers to champion the value of our parks and green spaces to achieve better protection for their future at both local and UK-wide level.

Our latest research shows, for the first time at national level, a direct and statistically significant link between an individual's use of parks and green spaces and an improvement in their physical health, life satisfaction, sense of worth, happiness and anxiety levels. But despite their clear health and wellbeing benefits, parks and green spaces are facing an uncertain future. As a non-statutory service outdoor spaces are under threat across the UK.

Protection
Planning policy can be an effective way of protecting outdoor spaces but at both a local and national 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, or 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 legally binding documents 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.

The process for a recreational landowner to protect a site under a Deed of Dedication is straightforward and can be completed with minimal time and expense. The team at Fields in Trust works with the landowner and undertakes most of the necessary work to complete the protection.

The creation of a new park on derelict land in Newbold, Rugby resulted in local residents feeling healthier, happier and becoming more active.

Fields in Trust conducted research into Centenary Park in Rugby which opened in April 2016 and features a green outdoor gym, play area, multi-use games area, wildlife meadow, butterfly bank and sensory garden. The space was also protected by Rugby Borough Council as part of Fields in Trust’s Centenary Fields programme.

The research found that since Centenary Park opened three times as many people visit local parks daily than before with over 60% of park visitors reporting feeling happier and better about themselves. Half said they had significantly more access to nature and two-thirds said the most important reason for visiting was physical activity.

“Parks are vital in providing opportunities for people to get active in the fresh air, and it is important that we protect them for the benefit of local communities.”
Tracey Crouch MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and Minister for Loneliness
Fields in Trust’s work

- **Protect:** Green spaces are good, do good and need to be protected for good. They are not pleasant nice-to-haves to be taken for granted - they are the green hearts of our communities.

- **Support:** Parks and green spaces should be open to everyone, connecting people and catalysing community spirit. Places we can all move, breathe, run and play.

- **Champion:** Parks and green spaces have a positive impact on a range of key issues from physical and mental health and wellbeing to community cohesion. They need to be revalued for their contributions to society.

Fields in Trust’s history

Since our foundation in 1925 we have been protecting and improving outdoor space under key protection programmes:

- **King George V Playing Fields:** protected in tribute to our founder King George V.

- **Queen Elizabeth II Fields (QE in Scotland):** protected in celebration of the 2012 Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympic and Paralympic Games.

- **Centenary Fields:** one of our current programmes, delivered with The Royal British Legion to permanently protect recreational spaces connected to World War I.

- **Active Spaces:** our programme protecting spaces and supporting physical activity with the first UK-wide funding from the London Marathon Charitable Trust.

Protected parks and green spaces

Fields in Trust protect in perpetuity a total of 2,735 parks and green spaces across the UK, including:

- 471 King George V Fields
- 1397 Queen Elizabeth II Fields (QE in Scotland)
- 121 Centenary Fields
- 11 Active Spaces

As well as King George V Fields our historic protection programmes also include Covenanted Fields, Owain Glyndwr Fields, Millennium Fields and Carnegie NPFA Fields. To find out if your local park or green space is protected, visit the Fields in Trust website: [www.fieldsintrust.org](http://www.fieldsintrust.org)