

# Fields in Trust

## An Introduction



Fields in Trust is the only national charity which operates throughout the UK to safeguard playing fields, recreation grounds and parks. We legally protect individual spaces as well as campaigning for better statutory protection for all kinds of outdoor sites. We also produce guidance on the provision of outdoor sport and play spaces.



*“Urban 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*

Founded in 1925 by King George V, our mission is the same now as it was then: to ensure that everyone – young or old, able-bodied or disabled and wherever they live – should have access to free, local outdoor space for sport, play and recreation.

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

Glasgow City Council has dedicated much of the public space in the city as Fields in Trust protected recreational space. Amongst the 27 protected sites is the world famous Glasgow Green, which lays claim to the title of the UK’s oldest “public park” dating to 1450 when Bishop Turnbull gifted land to the people for common grazing land.

Glasgow Green’s historical, cultural and political associations are unequalled. It is the place where James Watt conceived the idea of the steam condenser launching the Industrial Revolution. It is associated with social movements including Trade Unionism and the Suffragettes. It is connected with the birth of Celtic and Rangers Football Clubs and was the site of the first golf course in the City. It has hosted theatre, fairs, festivals and more recently Commonwealth Games events, marathons, concerts, fireworks displays and children’s play-days.

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.

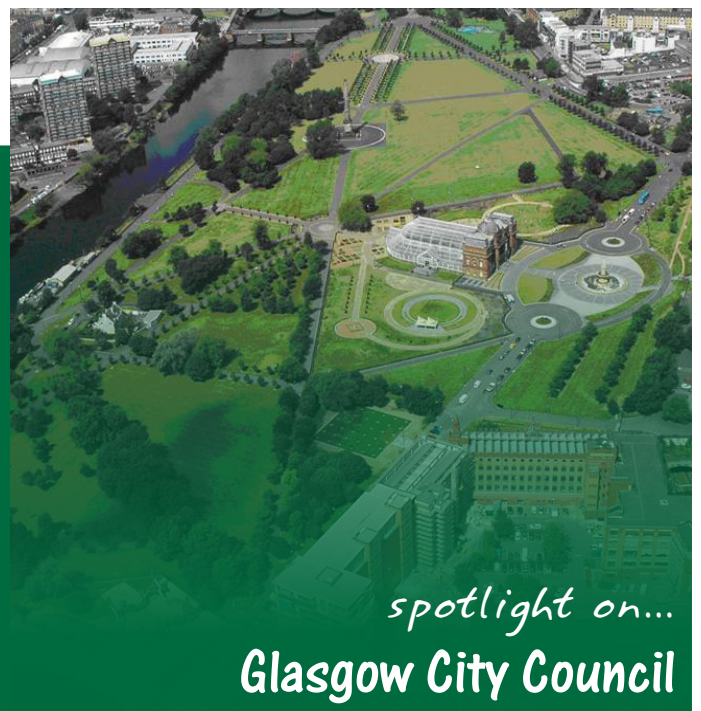
### PROTECTION

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 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.

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.



*spotlight on...*

**Glasgow City Council**

## FIELDS IN TRUST'S WORK

- **Safeguarding sites for future generations to enjoy:** our core activity; we have extensive experience of working with landowners, from local authorities to sports clubs, to protect spaces for future generations.
- **Supporting protected sites:** we believe Fields in Trust sites should be the best they can be. Since 2010 we have distributed over £3 million in funding for improvements.
- **Championing green spaces:** Fields in Trust Chief Executive Helen Griffiths has been appointed as a member of the new Parks Action Group, convened by Minister for Local Government Marcus Jones MP to review how parks meet the needs of local communities.



**Fields in Trust currently safeguards over 2,700 sites** a total of **30,000 acres** of land including playgrounds, playing fields, and formal and informal parkland across the UK.



## 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 new programme protecting spaces and supporting community activation; the first UK-wide funding by the London Marathon Charitable Trust.

## GUIDANCE FOR OUTDOOR SPORT AND PLAY

First published as *The Six Acre Standard* in the 1930s our guidance on the provision of space for sport and play is firmly embedded in the planning lexicon.

The 2015 edition *Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play* is a one-stop shop for all practitioners in the planning and design of both informal and formal space to meet the recreational needs of the community.



The Fields in Trust *Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play* is available in versions for England, Scotland and Wales, plus a Welsh language version



Burgess Park, Southwark

## PROTECTED SITES

Fields in Trust protect in perpetuity a total of 2,731 sites across the UK, including:

- 505 King George V Playing Fields
- 1397 Queen Elizabeth II Fields (QE in Scotland)
- 109 Centenary Fields
- 33 Owain Glyndwr & Millennium Fields
- 196 FIT protected & Active Spaces sites
- 485 Covenanted sites
- 6 Carnegie/NPFA sites

To find out if your local park, playing field or green space is safe, visit the Fields in Trust website: [www.fieldsintrust.org](http://www.fieldsintrust.org)

Fields in Trust

Unit 2D Woodstock Studios, 36 Woodstock Grove, London, W12 8LE

t: 020 7427 2110 | e: [info@fieldsintrust.org](mailto:info@fieldsintrust.org) | w: [www.fieldsintrust.org](http://www.fieldsintrust.org)

Incorporated by Royal Charter Reg. Charity No. 306070 | Reg. Company No. RC000370 | OSCR Registration No. SC040357

**fit**  
fields in trust